



## The British Constructional Steelwork Association Limited

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**ALL MEMBERS MEMORANDUM NO: 43/20**

### **CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) UPDATE**

BCSA is continuing as usual so far as travel and meetings are concerned as we believe following the government guidance is the prime driver for ensuring the response by businesses to the virus is managed in such a way to cause minimum disruption.

The latest from the government is below and BCSA will keep a watching brief for changes and advise members accordingly.

#### **The role the public can play in supporting this response**

Everyone can help support the UK's response by:

- Following public health authorities' advice, for example on hand washing
- Reducing the impact and spread of misinformation by relying on information from trusted sources, such as that on [www.nhs.uk/](http://www.nhs.uk/), [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot), [www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net), <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19> and [www.gov.uk/](http://www.gov.uk/)
- Checking and following the latest Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice when travelling and planning to travel
- Ensuring you and your family's vaccinations are up to date as this will help reduce the pressure on the NHS/HSCNI through reducing vaccine-preventable diseases
- Checking on elderly or vulnerable family, friends and neighbours
- Using NHS 111 (or NHS 24 in Scotland or NHS Direct Wales) (including online, where possible), pharmacies and GPs responsibly, and go to the hospital only when you really need to. This is further explained on the NHS website - [www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergencycare/when-to-go-to-ae/](http://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergencycare/when-to-go-to-ae/) and <http://www.choosewellwales.org.uk/home>
- Being understanding of the pressures the health and social care systems may be under, and receptive to changes that may be needed to the provision of care to you and your family.
- Accepting that the advice for managing COVID-19 for most people will be self-isolation at home and simple over the counter medicines
- Checking for new advice as the situation changes.

#### **The Delay phase - next steps**

If the disease becomes established in the UK, the government will need to consider further measures to reduce the rate and extent of its spread. Based on experience with previous outbreaks, it may be that widespread exposure in the UK is inevitable; but

slowing it down would still nonetheless be beneficial. For example, health services are less busy in the summer months when flu and other winter bugs are not driving GP consultations and hospital admissions. In the 2009 'swine flu' pandemic school holidays significantly slowed transmission of the virus.

Government will increase publicity about the need for good hygiene measures (hand washing, and catch it, bin it, kill it) and further promote the need for people with symptoms to stay at home for the full duration of their illness.

Other action will be considered to help achieve a delay in the spread of the disease. The government will aim to minimise the social and economic impact, subject to keeping people safe. Such judgements will be informed based on the best available and most up to date scientific evidence and take into account the trade-offs involved.

**Peter Walker**  
**Director of Health, Safety & Training**