

12 April 2021

Covid-19 Road and Street Works Bulletin 011.1: Working as national restrictions are lifted.

Dear Colleagues,

As the country continues to progress out of the Covid-19 restrictions put in place in early 2021, we thought it timely to update the advice to reflect the changes.

Within this bulletin, we set out the changes in approach that should now be considered with reminders and clarification of four topics: Highway space reallocation, site meetings and defects, restrictions around vaccination etc. centres, and resources to administer and undertake works.

Reallocation of Highway Space

The advice on network management duties and accessibility of underground assets has been updated in the document linked below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities>

We would also draw your attention to HAUC England bulletin 008.3 'Good practice during the Covid-19 recovery' which has been previously published.

Site Meetings and Defects

Whilst continuing to minimise the chance of spreading the virus by complying with Government guidance and instruction, joint site meetings should now be able to take place. Of course, if ways of communication and technology such as logged telephone calls, CCTV and/or video footage, street images, used during Covid-19 have proven to be effective, parties may choose to continue using these facilities as circumstances dictate.

All SROH defects assessed as "Non-Dangerous" should be served on Street Manager as normal and rectifications required should recommence and a reasonable time agreed to allow a resumption of business as usual.

As a reminder also, below is the link to government guidance for construction and outdoor work;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/construction-and-other-outdoor-work>



Department
for Transport



Vaccination and other essential logistic centres/locations

Particular regard continues to require application to locations and routes, such as those to vaccine centres, testing facilities, to and between hospitals, and medical supply distribution depots. These locations may not all be obvious. All of these are very significant in the part they play in fighting the Covid-19 virus and its consequences. At these locations, and on the major transport routes that service them, restrictions may need to be strengthened, enhanced planning and co-ordination efforts carried out, and/or the execution of works may need to be postponed or re-scheduled to help with traffic management. However, where possible, works of supply and repair should be allowed to continue.

Resources to administer and complete works

Covid-19 may obviously continue to have some impact on admin, planning, and on site staff and the ability of both authorities and works promoters to administer or complete works. Therefore, careful consideration needs to be given on the resources available and adequate resilience. These are matters for both the promoter and the authorities to consider so that permits, the works and the network are managed and, if necessary, provision made to prioritise permits and works on category 0, 1, 2 and traffic sensitive streets.

There may be difficulties encountered and a practical and considerate view needs to be taken with the application of Section 74 charges. Where best endeavours are taken to complete works despite work crews' absences, and where, for similar reasons, routine permit transactions for promoters and authorities become difficult, communication and co-operation between the parties is essential. Duration extension requests and authority imposed variations, in these types of circumstances, should be considered and applied reasonably.

Good communication and cooperation are essential. However, where established requirements are disregarded or abused, promoters and authorities may find themselves subject to review and sanction.

Best Regards

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Joint Chairs HAUC England

Agreed by all parties including the DfT, HAUC UK, JAG, Street Works UK,
Please note; the Scottish and Welsh Governments may issue their own advice.