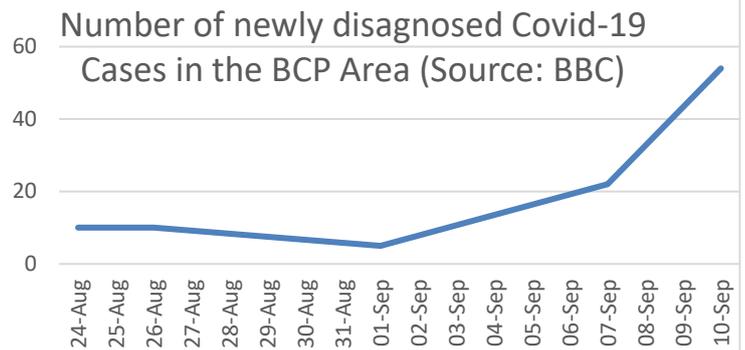




He has good reason to worry but *hand-face-space* will save lives



The number of diagnosed Covid-19 test in the BCP area have been growing, but well below the national average for weeks now. In the last two days, however, the number of infections in the area has leapt up by 38. A week is a long time in Covid-19 epidemiology, and although the experts argue the rise is being seen in people below the age of 30 who are unlikely to suffer lasting damage to their health, the growing transmission rate does represent a higher risk to older members of the population with comorbidities. We remind everyone we have a diverse age range within the Company and staff members with comorbidities.

As employers we must review our Covid-19 safety measures and to remind employees that whatever your private views on observing the Government's guidance, following the new *rule-of-six*, keeping to the 2m self-distancing rule, and wearing face coverings when you have to work more closely in the workplace, is mandatory when you are on our time in the workplace.

Marisco is following the Government guidance that if any employee, or a member of their household, develops any of the official Covid-19 symptoms they must either self-isolate for 10 days, or be cleared to return to work earlier if they obtain a negative Covid-19 test. The key symptoms are:

- a new continuous cough; and/or
- a high temperature; and/or
- or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

As employers, we must insist every employee takes our Covid-19 safe working measures seriously. Employees who fail to cooperate and observe the rules will find themselves very quickly being processed through our disciplinary procedures for gross misconduct. We will not allow the selfish actions of individuals who believe they can operate outside the rules, to threaten the health and job security for the rest of us who need to keep working to keep a roof over our heads. The next six months is going to be challenging enough, and the last thing we need is for the thoughtless actions of one amongst us to force whole sections of the company into isolation for 14 days, or worse. None of us can afford that possibility.

Although the new *rule of six* does not apply to people *at* work, it is interesting how Wales has interpreted the same medical evidence Boris used to conclude transmission is highest when people congregate in rooms indoors. For this reason, we request no more than 2 people congregate in the unit's kitchen area.

The BBML H&S team has today advised us they *do* expect our operatives to use face coverings if the 2m rule cannot be met, evidence that hand soap/sanitiser are *being* used on site, and no more than 2 people in a one-bed, 3 people in a two-bed and a maximum of 4 in larger properties. **BBML also highlighted the importance they attach to the mandatory wearing of face coverings by workers when transiting the communal area of their flats and sheltered housing. These are reasonable requests. Please abide by them.**