

COVID Safety Policy

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a high disruption to the Education and Training sector and continues to be a risk if allowed to spread. The health, safety, and wellbeing of both our staff and apprentices will always be our primary concern, during this time of uncertainty Skern Training and Skills are taking positive actions to ensure the risks of covid-19 are minimised.

Skern Training and Skills made the joint decision along with employers to delay the initially delivery of apprenticeships in line with the then current government guidelines to March 29th 2021. Since then, we have been working within and adapting to the current government guidelines.

While the COVID virus continues Skern Training and Skills will:

1. Comply with all statutory provisions, local restrictions or general guidance produced to support the control of the spread of coronavirus.
2. Operate within the individual employers' guidelines and reduce cross contamination of bubbles where possible.
3. Keep individuals within the teaching groups a safe distance apart from each other and whenever possible social distancing.
4. Prioritise vulnerable learners to ensure safe teaching and learning continues as part of their apprenticeship e.g. online classrooms where required.

Staffing

- Our staff members have undertaken additional training in our new ways of working and are aware of the responsibilities for preventing the virus transmission.
- Our staff team members will undertake lateral flow test prior to arriving at the delivery site, if in residence they will undertake a twice weekly test. These results will be stored within STS COVID results form along with the require government portal.
- Our staff will be wearing masks or shields when in close contact situations, such as moving around corridors.

Teaching and Learning

- When teaching and learning occurs at any site the staff team will keep windows and doors open as much as possible to ventilate the indoor areas.
- Both staff and apprentices will wear masks or shields at all times when indoors except once seated in an appropriate area.
- If apprentices need to self-isolate or we enter another lockdown, Skern Training and Skills will discuss with the employer lead how to adapt a blended on-line learning approach suitable for the duration as necessary required.

Communication

- Skern Training and Skills will communicate with the employer if necessary due to contact if any staff team member tests positively in order to ensure that the appropriate testing strategies are implemented.

- Any employer that has a positive test of a person that has been in close contact with a staff member of the team will communicate this to Skern Training and Skills and give details of who and when.
- Any employer will communicate with Skern Training and Skills information of any apprentices that are either self-isolating or have tested positive.
- If an apprentice is in self-isolation or tested positive the Employer and Skern Training and Skills will communicate with across the triparty (Employer, Apprentice, Training provider) the agreed adaptation of the sequence of learning appropriate to the circumstances.