ADVICE FOR PEST PROFESSIONALS Should I go on a job during the Covid-19 pandemic?

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO



Only essential contact should be permitted during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, by its nature, pest management is an essential service; many businesses will choose to continue to do routine visits and control acute infestations.



Is there a critical imminent threat to public health if you don't attend the site?

Is there a risk of food contamination and therefore disease?

Is the client distressed to the point that their mental health is affected?

YES

Do I need to be on-site?

YES

Are your staff protected?

Are you sure no-one is currently self-isolating in the premises?

Have you asked your client if their staff are well on-site?

Do they have the correct PPE and handwashing facilities?

Are your staff health records up-to-date?

Do you know for certain the technician isn't in a high-risk group?

Are you and your staff up-to-date with current government guidance and can you demonstrate this?

Have you sought advice from your insurers and suppliers?

VFS

Are there vulnerable people on-site?

YES

Does pest infestation risk outweigh the risk of spreading Covid-19?

> If there is an active pest infestation you may decide that it's important to carry out a treatment.

BPCA can't tell you whether you should or shouldn't be doing a specific job. However, we've developed a thought process you may choose to follow or incorporate into a risk assessment before you visit a site.

Each step encourages you to assess and mitigate the risks to yourself and your clients as best you can. The process should be followed before every job and dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

DO NOT VISIT but consider...

Will hygiene or proofing advice stop the problem or at least keep the infestation in check until it is safer to do a visit?

Can pest awareness training over the phone or via video conference be sufficient to protect a site for the short term?

Can routine visits be missed if on-site employees are trained to do basic monitoring?

DO NOT VISIT but consider...

Can any part of the work be done remotely by video call?

Can your survey be done remotely with a trusted employee already on-site?

Can you confirm infestations of domestic properties with photographs from the client?

A client should never be encouraged to interfere with professional use products such as rodenticides or insecticides.

DO NOT VISIT but consider...

If you or your client decide not to arrange a visit, make sure any glue boards are removed and any live capture traps are deactivated.

If you have any rodenticide in sites that have a high risk of re-infestation (eg permanent baiting strategy) label restrictions need to be adhered to. If you have any concerns that you may not be able to visit at minimum legal frequencies, then it may be best not to use rodenticides in these cases.

Always use pesticides in accordance with the label requirement.

Ultimately, it is a business decision for each company and their clients to decide whether or not to visit a site. This thought process is designed to get you to think about the risks and mitigation methods, but not to make the decisions for you.

If you are a BPCA member and need extra technical support, or clarity on this thought process, please contact us and we'll be happy to talk it through with you. Contact technical@bpca.org.uk

