

Risk assessment for working during Coronavirus pandemic

Assessing the risk of infection whilst working during the coronavirus pandemic is not easy due to many unknowns relating to how the virus behaves. We have investigated the latest understanding of this behaviour from reputable sources and based our responses on this, including but not limited to the following:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub>

<https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/20/sars-cov-2-survive-on-surfaces/>

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200317-covid-19-how-long-does-the-coronavirus-last-on-surfaces>

“[...] the virus circulating in unfiltered air conditioning systems will only persist for a couple of hours at the most, especially as aerosol droplets tend to settle on surfaces faster in disturbed air.”

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-coronavirus-spreads-through-the-air-what-we-know-so-far1/>

“Ventilation likely also plays an important role in how easily the virus can be transmitted through the air. Indoor spaces probably pose a higher risk than outdoor ones, especially if they are poorly ventilated, [...]. Crowded areas such as bars, restaurants and subway trains could all be risky—especially if people are asymptomatic and spend long periods of time in such areas. Precautions could include better ventilation, regular cleaning and mask wearing.”

In general, based on the latest guidance and evidence, we believe that providing rental tents in garden settings is a low risk activity. However, we have identified that the risks, as they exist, are:

- Being infected by Covid 19 from individuals in the location where we are working.
- Being already infected and asymptomatic and unknowingly contaminating rental equipment during set-up which then infects our customers using our tent and equipment.
- Cross-contaminating our tent/ equipment/ van and thus passing the infection on from one household to the next.

It is our intention to reduce these risks as much as is practically possible by:

- Not working if anyone at Bath Bell Tents is symptomatic
- Cancelling any booking where anyone in the customer’s household is symptomatic. Offer full refunds to encourage this behaviour.
- If customers develop symptoms during booking period observe unused period of 72 hours before collection.
- Wearing masks and gloves and observing good hand hygiene practices whilst on site and whilst handling tents and rental equipment.
- Working in a contactless manner i.e. asking all customers to remain indoors while we are on site. If this is unavoidable, to remain outside and at least 2 metres from customers and to keep this interaction as short as possible.
- Avoiding touching high-touch surfaces such as gates whilst on site.
- Observing a period of ventilation between the end of use by customers and the start of our take-down.
- Rotating the use of tents and equipment so each new customer does not come into contact with tents and equipment recently used by other people.

Task	Risk	Control of risk
<u>Before set-up</u>		
Enquiries & payments	Payments in cash. Site visits.	All payments to be made in advance electronically. Any discussions relating to suitability of site etc to be done via photos, the use of online mapping tools such as google maps or what3words, or via video conference. Ensure garden has separate access and does not need indoor access.
<u>Set-up</u>		
Packing of van	Contaminating tents and equipment for use by customers by coughing, sneezing or by touch.	Practice good hygiene. No coughing or sneezing into hands. Wash/sanitise hands before touching rental equipment, and regularly during the packing process, or wear clean gloves as appropriate.
Getting to location	Contaminating touch surfaces in van cab and then transferring to other equipment thereafter.	Wash/sanitise hands before entering van cab.
Meet and greet	Close contact with people not from our own household who may be infectious without symptoms.	Agree an arrival time in advance. Ideally signal arrival via phone call. If not, keep 2 metres from door when opened. Ask customers to stay indoors. Ask that all gates to garden are opened in advance and access routes are cleared of all obstructions. If this hasn't been done on arrival, wait until the access is cleared.
Selecting location for tent	Close contact with people not from our own household who may be infectious without symptoms.	Agree a location in advance via photos, the use of online mapping tools such as google maps or what3words, or via video conference. If on arrival to site the location is not suitable and further discussion is needed, keep at least 2 metres distance and remain outdoors.
Unloading van	Contaminating tents and equipment for use by customers by coughing, sneezing or by touch.	Wash/sanitise hands before touching rental equipment, or wear clean gloves.
Set-up	Contaminating tents and equipment for use by customers by coughing, sneezing or by touch. Contaminating the enclosed space inside the tent.	Wear face masks and gloves where necessary. Work with the tent doors and windows open to keep ventilation as high as possible.

Task	Risk	Control of risk
Handover	Close contact with people not from our own household who may be infectious without symptoms.	Email handover details to customers in advance so there is no need for close contact. If face-to-face communication is essential, keep at least 2 metres distance and remain outdoors.
Leaving site	Contaminating touch surfaces in van cab and then transferring to other equipment thereafter.	Remove gloves or wash/sanitise hands before entering van cab.
<u>Take-down</u>		
Getting to location	Contaminating touch surfaces in van cab and then transferring to other equipment thereafter.	Wash/sanitise hands before entering van cab.
Customer checkout	Contamination of the enclosed space inside the tent by customers during use.	Asking for the tent to be vacated at least 3 hours in advance of our arrival. All tent windows and doors to be opened fully. All personal belongings to be removed at this stage. If on arrival the space is deemed to be unsafe, do not commence work until a suitable period of ventilation has been observed.
Take-down	Contamination of the enclosed space inside the tent by customers during use. Touching surfaces used by customers that may therefore be contaminated.	Wear face masks and gloves where necessary.
Leaving site	Contaminating touch surfaces in van cab and then transferring to other equipment thereafter.	Remove gloves or wash/sanitise hands before entering van cab.
<u>Decontamination</u>		
Unloading van	Touching equipment used by customers that may therefore be contaminated. Cross contamination from set-up equipment being in van along with or just after take down equipment.	Wear gloves. Use tarp to separate equipment as necessary. Observe 72 hour decontamination period where possible.
Storing tent and equipment	Cross-contamination from used rental equipment to unused equipment.	Store used equipment separately. Do not re-use any tents or equipment for at least 72 hours after a booking has ended.

Controls considered and rejected:

Control	Reason for rejection
Cleaning van cab with soap and water/ cleaning solution	<p>Time consuming.</p> <p>Easy to miss an area.</p> <p>Not good for the surfaces to be continually wet.</p> <p>Lower risk to rely on hand washing and/ or gloves.</p>
Cleaning tent with soap and water/ cleaning solution	<p>Not suitable for canvas treated with waterproofing layer.</p> <p>Risk of virus surviving on canvas is low and easily mitigated by leaving the tent for at least 72 hours before re-using.</p>
Cleaning equipment with soap and water/ cleaning solution	<p>Time consuming.</p> <p>Easy to miss an area.</p> <p>Not good for some materials to be continually wet.</p> <p>Risk of virus surviving on surfaces is low and easily mitigated by leaving equipment for at least 72 hours before re-using.</p>
Relying on 2 metre social distance during set-up and take down	<p>The 2 metre distance is considered the bare minimum control for reducing the risk of person-to-person infection. By avoiding all contact where possible the risk of infection is reduced still further.</p>