

## RISK ASSESSMENT – COVID -19 – FACE MASKS



Assessor's Name Sally Green (Compliance & Strategic Manager) Assessment Date 16 JUNE 2021

<p>Description of process, activity or task to be risk assessed</p> <p>Describe the location where the activities are taking place</p> <p>Describe the activities being performed</p> <p>Describe the equipment and/or substances being used</p> <p>Describe the people involved in these activities (and others who might be affected)</p> <p>Describe how the mitigation measures impact the environment</p>	<p>Torcare Ltd. is a registered Care Home Company which operates from three separate sites. The first two sites, Porte Rouge and Torpoint Nursing Centre share the same location and the third site, The Old Vicarage, is located on a separate site at Antony, Torpoint. All staff/visitors who enter any of the three care home sites are required to wear a clinical face mask, unless they have a medical exemption</p> <p>Wearing a face mask with the aim of reducing transmission of COVID-19 from the wearer to others, for prolonged periods of time during their shift/visit</p> <p>Substances: Coronavirus COVID-19 - while this assessment focusses on COVID-19, there are increased risks of other viruses, bacteria and fungi that could accumulate on face masks if good hygiene is not maintained</p> <p>Equipment: Face masks, include single use (surgical quality (CE marked) face masks (Type IIR))</p> <p>Note: Face masks are essential PPE</p> <p>Adults (A), including: directly employed staff; any contracted staff; visiting adults: to include service user's relatives/friends; healthcare professionals; pregnant woman; new mothers etc.</p> <p>Single-use clinical face masks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the need for replacement of single-use face masks (possibly up to 3 coverings per staff member per day) dependent upon job role and length of shift</li> <li>- although accepted in general waste, there is an emerging associated environmental impact of wildlife becoming entangled in the ear loops - therefore, final disposal will be via yellow bag (clinical waste incineration) where these are collected in the dedicated disposal bags (those placed in the normal waste will not be combed and will enter landfill)</li> </ul>
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with contaminated hands while putting on, adjusting or taking off face masks (direct transmission)	A	Single-use face masks should be changed regularly (with the used ones being disposed of appropriately in the clinical waste bins provided)	1	5	5	1	5	5	General activity controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our three care home sites
Contraction of COVID-19 - transmission of COVID-19 (and other viruses) by increasing the viral load through the extensive use of the same face mask (direct transmission)	A	Torcare Ltd. has sufficient stock to allow for a new face mask at the start of each shift, and after a meal break. For care staff who undertake a long day (in excess of 8 hours, a further change of face mask may be required)	1	5	5	1	5	5	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites
Contraction of COVID-19 - transmission of COVID-19 (and other viruses, bacteria and fungi) by touching used face mask (direct transmission)	A	Used face masks should be placed in the clinical waste bins provided  If there are any found discarded in the grounds of the care home sites, these should be picked up with a litter-picking device, or by using single-use disposable gloves  When securing any waste bag, take care when squeezing any air out of the bag, so as not to create an air jet	1	5	5	1	5	5	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites
Contraction of COVID-19 - transmission of COVID-19 (and other viruses, bacteria and fungi) through	A	Replace damp or wet face mask  Ensure the face mask fits appropriately – it should cover the mouth and nose and fit tightly to the side of the face	1	5	5	1	5	5	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites

through compromised face mask due to defect, incorrect use, dampness etc (direct transmission)	Check for obvious defects before wearing - discard if defective				home sites
Ill health effects – respiratory - increased coughing and throat clearing due to aggravation caused by the face mask	Ensure opportunities to drink and to break from wearing face mask (e.g., a walk outside the care home/in the grounds/break in staff room)	2	3	6	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites
Ill health effects – circulatory - difficulty getting sufficient oxygen due to the increased resistance to inhaling and exhaling and re-inhaling CO <sup>2</sup>	Seek medical advice - if severe, then apply for exemption from wearing a face mask  Ensure opportunities to break from wearing face mask (e.g., a walk outside of the care home/in the grounds/break in staff room)	2	3	6	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites
Ill health effects – A dermatological - skin rashes and irritations caused by prolonged exposure to damp environment by excessive wearing of face masks	Seek medical advice - if severe, then apply for exemption from wearing a face mask  Ensure opportunities to break from wearing face coverings (e.g., a walk outside of the care home/in the grounds/break in staff room)	2	3	6	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites
Psychological harm - A due to socio-psychological stress and anxiety from lack of “mirroring” of facial expressions and the lack of empathetic connections and/or claustrophobic	Seek medical advice - if severe, then apply for exemption from wearing a face mask  Ensure opportunities to break from wearing face coverings (e.g., a walk outside the care home/in the grounds/break in staff room)	3	4	12	General equipment and substance controls – follow control measures in COVID-19 risk assessment – those provisions apply to all persons on each of our care home sites

claustrophobic experiences from feeling constrained through the prolonged wearing of face masks

\*Likelihood x Consequence = Risk (see Annex A)

### Risk Rating Calculator

Likelihood that hazardous event will occur	Consequence of hazardous event
1 very unlikely	1 insignificant – no injury
2 unlikely	2 minor – minor injuries needing first aid
3 fairly likely	3 moderate – up to three days' absence
4 likely	4 major – more than seven days' absence
5 very likely	5 catastrophic – death

### Action Level Table

Risk rating	Action
20–25	Stop – stop activity and take immediate action
15–16	Urgent action – take immediate action and stop activity if necessary, maintain existing controls rigorously
8–12	Action – improve within specified timescale
3–6	Monitor – look to improve at next review or if there is a significant change
1–2	No action – no further action but ensure controls are maintained and reviewed

### Risk Scoring Grid

Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5	Hazards in the workplace
5	5	10	15	20	25	Aggression and violence Drugs and alcohol Stress
4	4	8	12	16	20	Electricity Manual handling Temperature
3	3	6	9	12	15	Fire Noise Vehicles/transport
2	2	4	6	8	10	Chemicals and harmful substances Getting in and out of Plant and machinery Vibration
1	1	2	3	4	5	Computer workstations Heights Radiation Viruses, diseases

1	1	2	3	4	5	Computer workstations	Heights	Radiation	Viruses, diseases and infections	
	1	2	3	4	5	Confined spaces	Housekeeping	Slips and trips	Harmful occurrences	
	Consequence									

**Hazard categories:** Mechanical; Physical; Chemical; Biological; Environmental; Organisational

- Machinery or process
- <sup>2</sup> Substances or conditions, including slips, trips and falls
- <sup>3</sup> Harm to humans, property or environment
- <sup>4</sup> Organic substances
- <sup>5</sup> Temperature, dust
- <sup>6</sup> Behaviour, workload, time constraints, deadlines