

# CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV STATEMENT



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES WE HAVE IN PLACE

The measures we have put in place are designed to take care of our colleagues at Muntons and our partners in the supply chain. We have aligned our guidance with the UK government advice to ensure that we play our part in helping contain and delay the spread of the coronavirus.

***Update January 2021: Muntons manufacturing operations are not affected by the UK lockdown rules and we are operating safely according to covid secure guidelines and at full capacity***

**New covid variant VUI-202012/01:** There is no evidence that covid19 or the new variant can be transmitted in food, only by persistence on surfaces or by fluid/aerosol transmission (coughing, sneezing etc.)

Whilst this specific mutation originated in the UK and South Africa independently, similar variants have previously been identified in Denmark, Thailand, Italy, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Spain.

It is expected that the new vaccines will still be effective against this new variant

### Business Continuity

Muntons has a robust Business Continuity (BC) plan in place that has been tested previously in live scenarios. The BC committee has met to consider a wide variety of risks including workforce availability; home-base working; raw material availability; shipping. We meet at least twice a week to check and confirm that our measures are appropriate.

***Production continues as normal but there may be some transportation issues<sup>1</sup>***

***We are not experiencing any undue delays due to BREXIT. Muntons has Assured Economic Operator status to allow us to prepare customs documentation on site and smooth our passage through the port controls***

### Restricted Area Control

- We require a 10-day period of being outside global high-risk areas for infection
- If any visitor or staff member has been in contact with someone with symptoms of covid19 or someone with a positive test, the same 10-day isolation period applies
- After the 10-day isolation period nobody is allowed onto site unless they are also free of covid19 symptoms and have obtained a negative covid19 test result

### Change of working arrangements

- Muntons operations are defined as a key business with key workers. Key workers include: Food chain workers, including those involved in production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of goods. Hence Muntons is classed as a food producing business and we are allowed to continue manufacturing
- We have minimised the number of production staff required on site but continue to work as normal
- All office staff are set up to work from home and we are following the UK government guidelines to work from home unless absolutely essential.
- We have a dedicated website for communicating information to staff that is regularly updated

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<sup>1</sup> **Haulage controls:** All supply partners delivering Muntons product to customer sites have the following in place: Driver testing (temperature) before starting shifts; Enforced sick leave for anyone showing symptoms or living with others that are showing symptoms; Limiting social contact and non-essential work travel; Staff working from home where possible to limit contact with drivers; Increased flexibility regards delays due to lower staffing numbers at some sites; Fast, open and honest communication regarding any loading/delivery issues; Adherence to both Muntons and their customers Covid-19 site procedures; All hauliers are committed to providing a vehicle and driver for each and every order, as long as it is safe and acceptable to do so.

**Road haulage:** We are currently not experiencing any increased notice periods or cancellations from UK bulk hauliers, but we are monitoring the situation closely. Transportation involving containers is severely impacted at present due to the restrictions of vehicle movements and restrictions into and out of UK ports linked to the rise of new variant covid.

**Ocean freight:** We are experiencing significant issues with vessel and container availability caused by the disruption in China impacting the Far East transshipment ports. Lead times for vessel space is currently very long extending 6-8 weeks. We are doing everything we can to mitigate this issue by working closely with the shipping lines to secure space, searching for alternatives and keeping our customers updated.

We have set up a Crisis management team (Business Continuity) team that meets daily to plan how best to secure vessel space and to manage deliveries of product, particularly those deliveries that are highly dependent on transit time to remain in specification

## Staff working arrangements

- As many of our staff as possible are working from home. They can still be contacted using the contact details (phone and email) that you already have. Please contact your usual sales manager if you have any issue contacting our customer support teams.
- Production is continuing as normal because the number of staff on site is very much reduced, so the risk to production team members has been minimised
- We use non-contact (infrared) measuring of the temperature of everyone who comes onto site to stop those with high fever entering. The temperature measuring devices are regularly tested and calibrated.

## On site Infection control

- Washroom control facilities into our manufacturing areas
- Increased the number of virucidal hand gel stations in all our offices and reception areas
- Staff required to self-isolate immediately if they have been in contact with anyone who has been confirmed as having covid19 or have developed symptoms themselves
- Posters showing how to minimise the chances of cross-infection are displayed at Reception areas and on our intranet
- Instructed staff to avoid personal contact such as handshakes, kissing, hugging
- Limiting face to face meetings to short duration on site with 2m separation rule and ensuring rooms have good ventilation
- Staff are required to work from home if they can and we have increased the technology available so that more people than usual can work from home

## Visitor Control

- Visits on or off site that are non-essential will be arranged by video conference or telecon or postponed to a later date. Only business critical visits are allowed by approval of our senior team and under strict controls
- If a visit is approved in exceptional circumstances visitors are required to read and sign a declaration that they have had no contact with anyone who has been confirmed as having covid19 and do not have any symptoms (persistent new and unproductive cough, high temperature, anosmia or changes in ability to smell) themselves
- These controls apply to all visitors, hauliers and other delivery drivers coming onto site

## Food Safety

The *European Food Safety Authority* (EFSA) has stated that food is not a mode of transmission for the infection. Therefore, from a food safety perspective there are no special controls recommended and good general hygiene including frequent handwashing and use of alcoholic virucidal hand gel is sufficient to protect against any risk to food hygiene.

## Managing employee sickness

Muntons is monitoring the temperature of everyone coming onto site hence nobody will be allowed onto site with an elevated temperature. If anyone on site starts to feel unwell, they are a low risk but will be sent home immediately. The UK government advice is that the factory should observe strict social distancing guidelines and the following advice is followed:

- If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature and loss of the ability to smell (anosmia) in the business or workplace they should be sent home.
- If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell with symptoms consistent with coronavirus infection.
- It is not necessary to close the business or workplace or send any staff home unless government policy changes.
- Staff with confirmed covid19 infection isolate for 10 days at least and only return to work if symptoms have subsided and with a negative covid19 test, although we recognise a cough may persist without infection afterwards.

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