



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Information Sheet K: Cohorting

What is cohorting?

Cohorting means keeping people together in fixed groups, so people only mix with others from their group. Each group is kept completely separate.

For staff who cannot work 2m apart, or where physical barriers (e.g. screens) are not possible, cohorting can help to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If a worker develops COVID-19, it is likely that only their cohort members will count as close contacts and need to self-isolate for 14 days.

When to cohort staff

Where it is not possible to restructure processes to allow 2m social distancing, keep the same workers together for:

- Shift work
- Sharing vehicles
- Travelling together to and from work in employer transport
- Shared accommodation (employer-provided or private)

Try to keep cohorts as small as possible.

Further information on cohorting is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-food-businesses>