1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide supplementary guidance as to how food banks can minimise the risks of transmission of Coronavirus whilst delivering food bank operations.

2. Scope

2.1. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Manager’s Guidance document and is for those responsible for food bank support programmes.

3. Response

There is no evidence that the Covid-19 virus is spread through food, however it can live on surfaces. Therefore it is advisable that food donations from the public are left unsorted for 72 hours. As the amount of virus living on surfaces will have reduced significantly by 72 hours.

If it is necessary to admit clients into the building only admit one person at a time to the building and remove soft furnishings from the waiting area and leaflets etc, to ensure the area is as sterile as possible.

Follow guidance contained within the Coronavirus task force response document ‘Manager’s Guidance’ to ensure that surfaces within the public area are cleaned throughout the day/after the foodbank - focusing on contact points eg. Handles, door edges, banisters.

Ensure that disinfectant wipes are available for wiping door handles.

Use disposable cleaning cloths when cleaning surfaces and throw out after use.

Ensure hand gel is available and soap dispensers are kept topped up.

Ensure staff and volunteers are not ill themselves.

If you believe that a client with Covid-19 has been into the building then advice on how to clean the area effectively and protect yourself is available here [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings]