**2020 Ratings for public toilets – first draft**

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The food hygiene rating scheme has a scale:

5 is top of the scale; this means the hygiene standards are very good and fully comply with the law.

0 is at the bottom of the scale; this means urgent improvement is necessary.

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To comply with the law, public toilets should take account of the Equality Act 2010 which allows for the provision of women-only toilets. A ratings system should take account of compliance with this Act.

How many levels should there be on a scale for public toilets? I think 0-3

What factors should affect the ratings?

**LEVEL 0 : TOILETS PERMANENTLY CLOSED**

**LEVEL 1**

**EXTERIOR**

SIGNS DISPLAYING:

OPENING HOURS : limited opening hours

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AVAILABLE TOILET, WITH OPENING HOURS (in case “first” toilet is closed for cleaning, etc.) : sign giving incorrect information

COVID-19: illustrated sign giving instructions for new procedures, e.g. social distancing; one out, one in; etc. : sign damaged or missing

DETAILS OF CLEANING PROCEDURES, e.g. times when the toilets are cleaned, etc. : information not updated

SOCIAL-DISTANCING MARKINGS on the ground in case a queue forms (only for larger, busier public toilets).

**INTERIOR:**

CLEANLINESS: Standard to reflect the frequency and intensity of cleaning

If/when the Internet of Things is utilised (e.g. to monitor use & fullness of soap dispensers, sanitary bins, etc.) the cleaning schedule can be based on a variety of factors, including seasonal variables. The schedule could also be positively over-ruled or enhanced by considerations from medical experts. Assuming the current trials of wastewater monitoring of Sars-CoV-2 are successful, there will be an early warning system to indicate when levels of the virus are rising in the community. This should enable localised, targeted increases in the frequency and intensity of cleaning. Poorly cleaned surfaces

AIR QUALITY:

Currently, in buildings with mechanical ventilation systems, extended operation times are recommended. The general advice is to supply as much outside air as possible e.g. by leaving windows open. As our knowledge increases, the quality of the air in public toilets could be rated.

THE TOILET:

All toilets should have vandal-resistant seats and lids. In the WC cubicle, a clear notice should instruct all users to put the lid DOWN, BEFORE flushing the toilet. This is very important, to minimise the risk of faecal-oral transmission routes, etc.: toilets not provided with seats and lids

ALL RECEPTACLES for soiled sanitary products should be emptied very frequently and cleaned very thoroughly. Receptacles overflowing with soiled sanpros.

HANDWASHING:

Ample supplies of liquid soap in non-contact containers should always be readily available. Inadequate supplies of soap.

Toilets could be rated on the temperature of the water as it comes from the taps. Water which is cold or too hot should be rated lower than comfortably warm water, which enables users to wash their hands thoroughly for the recommended 20 seconds. Water supply either cold only, or scalding hot

HAND DRYING FACILITIES

Electric hot air hand driers may be provided; and/or disposable paper towels.

Toilets could receive a lower rating if supplies of paper towels are not kept readily available, nor disposed of in an hygienic manner.

NAPPY CHANGING FACILITIES:

Nappy-changing facilities should be provided, with ready access to bins for disposal of soiled nappies and baby wipes. Hand-washing facilities should be close to the changing area. It is important that the area is cleaned very thoroughly, at regular intervals. Poorly designed facilities/ poorly cleaned surfaces and overflowing receptacle for soiled nappies, etc.

FACILITIES DESIGNED FOR DISABLED PEOPLE These facilities must also be cleaned very thoroughly and regularly, as users may be more susceptible to contracting COVID-19. No facilities provided

**LEVEL 2**

**EXTERIOR**

SIGNS DISPLAYING:

OPENING HOURS : opening hours suitable to the location

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AVAILABLE TOILET, WITH OPENING HOURS (in case “first” toilet is closed for cleaning, etc.)

COVID-19: illustrated sign giving instructions for new procedures, e.g. social distancing; one out, one in; etc.

DETAILS OF CLEANING PROCEDURES, e.g. times when the toilets are cleaned, etc.

Or: Notification that an attendant works full-time in the toilets

SOCIAL-DISTANCING MARKINGS on the ground in case a queue forms.

TOUCHLESS HAND SANITISER (or small sink & soap) available **before** entry to the facilities

**INTERIOR:**

CLEANLINESS: Standard to reflect the frequency and intensity of cleaning; from visits by a mobile cleaning service, to a “resident” attendant.

If/when the Internet of Things is utilised (e.g. to monitor use & fullness of soap dispensers, sanitary bins, etc.) the cleaning schedule can be based on a variety of factors, including seasonal variables. The schedule could also be positively over-ruled or enhanced by considerations from medical experts. Assuming the current trials of wastewater monitoring of Sars-CoV-2 are successful, there will be an early warning system to indicate when levels of the virus are rising in the community. This should enable localised, targeted increases in the frequency and intensity of cleaning.

AIR QUALITY:

Currently, in buildings with mechanical ventilation systems, extended operation times are recommended. The general advice is to supply as much outside air as possible e.g. by leaving windows open. As our knowledge increases, the quality of the air in public toilets could be rated.

THE TOILET:

All toilets should have vandal-resistant seats and lids. In the WC cubicle, a clear notice should instruct all users to put the lid DOWN, BEFORE flushing the toilet. This is very important, to minimise the risk of faecal-oral transmission routes, etc.

ALL RECEPTACLES for soiled sanitary products should be emptied very frequently and cleaned very thoroughly.

HANDWASHING:

Ample supplies of liquid soap in non-contact containers should always be readily available.

Toilets could be rated on the temperature of the water as it comes from the taps. Water which is cold or too hot should be rated lower than comfortably warm water, which enables users to wash their hands thoroughly for the recommended 20 seconds.

HAND DRYING FACILITIES

Electric hot air hand driers may be provided; and/or disposable paper towels.

Toilets could receive a lower rating if supplies of paper towels are not kept readily available, nor disposed of in a hygienic manner.

NAPPY CHANGING FACILITIES:

Nappy-changing facilities should be provided, with ready access to bins for disposal of soiled nappies and baby wipes. Hand-washing facilities should be close to the changing area. It is important that the area is cleaned very thoroughly, at regular intervals.

FACILITIES DESIGNED FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

These facilities must also be cleaned very thoroughly and regularly, as users may be more susceptible to contracting COVID-19.

**LEVEL 3**

**EXTERIOR**

SIGNS DISPLAYING:

OPENING HOURS : long opening hours so facilities are readily accessible

DISTANCE TO NEAREST AVAILABLE TOILET, WITH OPENING HOURS (in case “first” toilet is closed for cleaning, etc)

COVID-19: illustrated sign giving instructions for new procedures, e.g. social distancing; one out, one in; etc.

DETAILS OF CLEANING PROCEDURES:

Notification that a trained attendant, equipped with PPE, works full-time in the toilets

SOCIAL-DISTANCING MARKINGS on the ground in case a queue forms.

TOUCHLESS HAND SANITISER (or small sink & soap) available **before** entry to the facilities

**INTERIOR:**

CLEANLINESS: Standard to reflect the frequency and intensity of cleaning; by a fully trained and equipped (PPE) “resident” attendant.

If/when the Internet of Things is utilised (e.g. to monitor use & fullness of soap dispensers, sanitary bins, etc.) the cleaning schedule can be based on a variety of factors, including seasonal variables. The schedule could also be positively over-ruled or enhanced by considerations from medical experts. Assuming the current trials of wastewater monitoring of Sars-CoV-2 are successful, there will be an early warning system to indicate when levels of the virus are rising in the community. This should enable localised, targeted increases in the frequency and intensity of cleaning.

AIR QUALITY:

Currently, in buildings with mechanical ventilation systems, extended operation times are recommended. The general advice is to supply as much outside air as possible e.g. by leaving windows open. As our knowledge increases, the quality of the air in public toilets could be rated. Toilets kept to a comfortable temperature in cold weather.

THE TOILET:

All toilets having vandal-resistant seats and lids. In the WC cubicle, a clear notice instructing all users to put the lid DOWN, BEFORE flushing the toilet. This is very important, to minimise the risk of faecal-oral transmission routes, etc.

ALL RECEPTACLES for soiled sanitary products emptied very frequently and cleaned very thoroughly.

HANDWASHING:

Ample supplies of liquid soap in non-contact containers readily available.

Comfortably warm water from taps, enabling users to wash their hands thoroughly for the recommended 20 seconds.

HAND DRYING FACILITIES

Electric hot air hand driers provided; and/or disposable paper towels.

Ample supplies of paper towels with regularly emptied receptacles for used towels.

NAPPY CHANGING FACILITIES:

Nappy-changing facilities provided, with ready access to bins for disposal of soiled nappies and baby wipes. Hand-washing facilities close to the changing area. The area cleaned very thoroughly after every nappy-change.

FACILITIES DESIGNED FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

These facilities cleaned very thoroughly and regularly, to protect vulnerable users from contracting COVID-19.