

Derwent Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

26th March 2020

The Derwent business is responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We currently remain fully operational. Our factory workers continue to come to work safely every day, in accordance with U.K. government guidelines, to carry out job functions that “absolutely can’t be done from home.”

We are strictly adhering to all guidelines from both the U.K. government and Public Health England to ensure the safety of our staff, their families and the wider community. These measures include, but aren’t limited to:

1. Communicating Public Health England’s guidelines to all members of staff both while they are at work and home; with hygiene and social distancing signs placed throughout the plant.
2. Temperature testing workers at the Lillyhall facility
3. Ensuring all workers clean their hands thoroughly (for a minimum of 20 seconds) on arrival
4. Adapting factory processes so that all workers can remain 2m away from one another at all times.
5. Fully enforcing 2m social distancing at all times.
6. Providing anti-bacterial gel throughout the facility.
7. Thoroughly cleaning the whole factory and warehouse facilities every morning
8. Sending home employees, who have (or their immediate family have) pre-existing medical conditions, which would place them at higher risk should they contract coronavirus.

Derwent art supplies are helping parents home school their children and professional artists and creative professionals continue to work from home. We are seeing increased demand for our products online demonstrating that parents and artists need our products at this difficult time. Art also plays a key role with resilience and mental health – never more important than during these uncertain and worrying times. So, we are doing our part in response to the U.K. government’s request to keep the country running.

We are working with relevant local charity groups to provide pencils to those in need, including the NHS. We are also providing the North Cumbria Food Bank with free warehousing to support those with increased economic hardship at this difficult time.

Finally, the Derwent Leadership Team would like to thank all Derwent staff for their commitment, perseverance and responsible attitude to work during these unprecedented times. Thank you also for all the kind comments we are receiving from Derwent customers who are grateful that we are able to continue to supply them, while also ensuring the safety of our workers.



Mike Stranders
Vice President & General Manager, Derwent