

Creating a world  
fit for the future



# COVID-19 and UK Rail

What can we do to keep the wheels turning?

© Ricardo plc 2020

[rail.ricardo.com](https://rail.ricardo.com)



# Where we are

## HM Government COVID-19 Alert Levels

5

### Social distancing measure increase

As Level 4, but a material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed.

4

### Social distancing measures remain

A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially.

3

### Gradual relaxing of measures

A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation.

2

### Minimal measures, enhanced testing/screening

COVID-19 is present in the UK but the number of cases and transmission is low.

1

### Routine international monitoring

COVID-19 not known to be present in the UK.

### Current status:

Where home working is not possible, the UK Government wants to encourage people back to their places of work, yet discourage use of public transport.

But many workers rely on public transport.

### Questions:

How should the UK rail respond when the nation is operating at Level 3 on its COVID-19 Alert Level?

How should UK rail respond if different parts of the UK are at different alert levels?

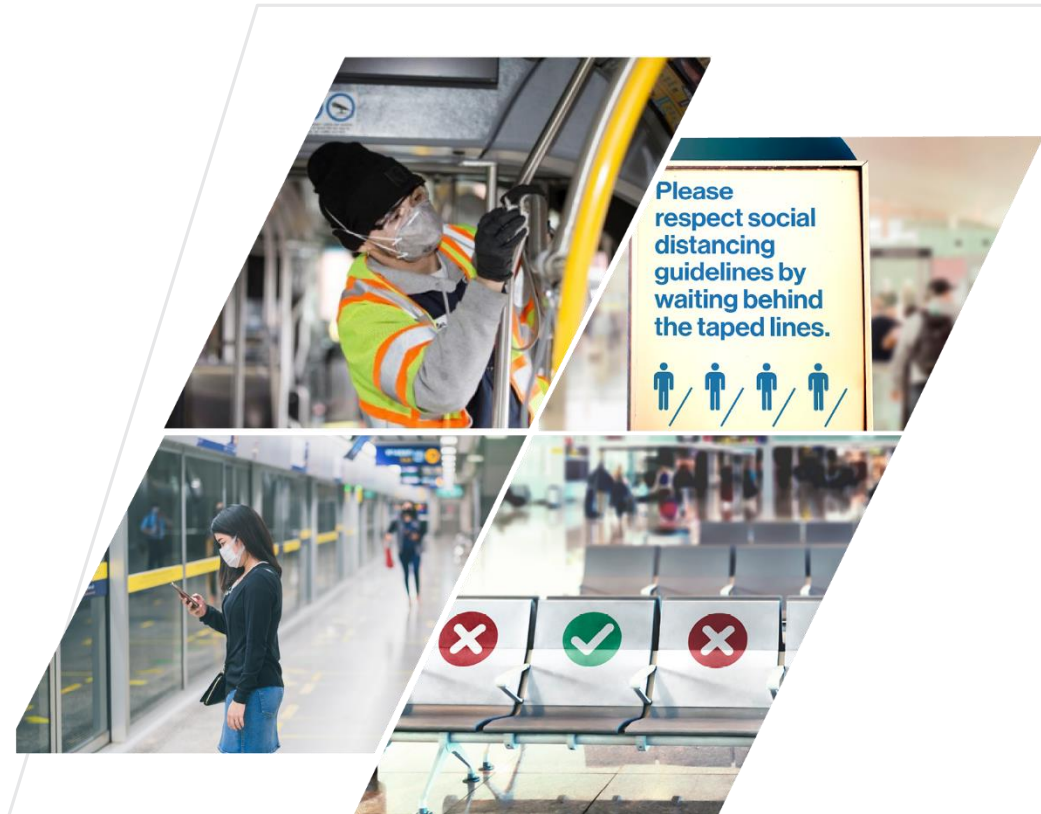
# What needs to happen?

The industry needs to ensure:

- Passengers feel safe to travel
- Staff have sufficient safeguards
- Services operate with minimum delays

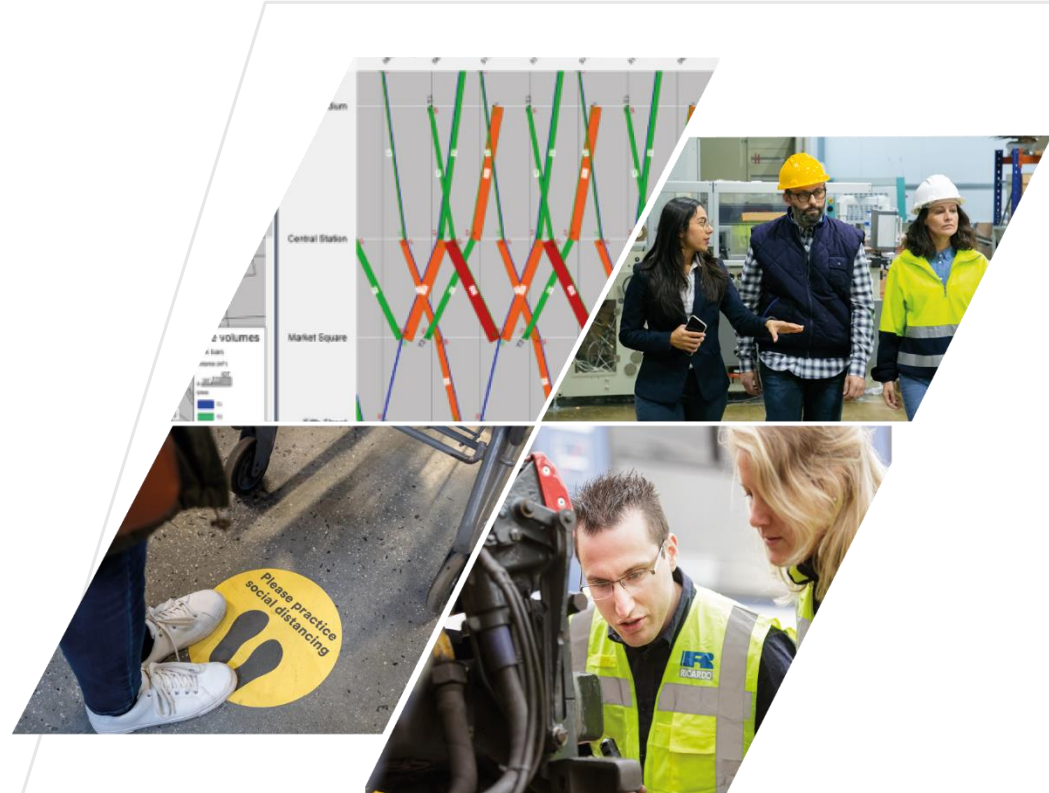
Realistic measures include:

- Social distancing on trains and in stations
- Closure of seating or access points to limit passenger numbers on trains.
- Increased cleaning regimes
- Additional signage and labels
- Encouraging passengers to follow hygiene guidelines on the railway



# How Ricardo can help

- We can prepare occupational health & safety risk assessments.
- Offer expert advice on hygiene control, with supporting health and safety risk assessments.
- Provide train presentation compliance regimes. E.g. SQUIRE and TPAC.
- Deliver advice on transport planning, including modelling of capacity constraints and future demand predictions.
- Review and update vehicle, plant and infrastructure maintenance plans to take advantage of any increased downtime.
- Provide human factors advice on passenger behaviour monitoring.



# Longer term – Coronavirus as an opportunity?

- An environment to revisit train fare reform?
- More flexible working patterns that reduce traditional peak hour demand?
- A strengthened argument for rail as a low carbon / cleaner air option?
- A new drive for selective electrification infills and other infrastructure investment?
- Integration of rail and first-mile/last-mile facilities



# Why Ricardo?

- Insight from COVID-19 responses supported by Ricardo on transportation systems across the world.
- Domain specialists in
  - Human factors (managing passengers behaviour)
  - Risk assessment (occupational and health)
  - Safety and security operation
  - Design engineering (engineering modification)
- Access to experts on crisis management, continuity and supply chain stability via [Ricardo Strategic Consulting](#).
- Sustainable transport planning and policy insight from [Ricardo Energy and Environment](#).



## Contact Details

The current Coronavirus pandemic is challenging all UK rail businesses making us reconsider everything we do, making us think pragmatically, positively and differently as we face the future.

For an initial discussion on how we can be mutually supportive please contact one of our team:



Tony Brown  
Principal Engineer  
[Anthony.brown@ricardo.com](mailto:Anthony.brown@ricardo.com)  
+44 (0) 7979 773525



Jon Mack  
Consulting Business Manager  
[Jonathan.mack@ricardo.com](mailto:Jonathan.mack@ricardo.com)  
+44 (0) 7710 858544

[