

## Site Inspections during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Lote's commitment to maintaining our standards on deliverables has enabled us to evolve and maintain our service despite the circumstances. To this effect, Lote acted pre-emptively and decisively to implement measures such as social distancing and working from home, while remaining vigilant about our client projects, stakeholder engagement, site inspections and delivery timelines.



A critical part of the business' rapid evolution was physical site inspections – something seen as intrinsically opposed to social distancing measures. In the interim period of transition, Lote has adhered to WHO and Australian Government guidance on hand hygiene supplemented by using Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves and face masks, as well as appropriate distance-keeping and space-sharing considerations, to maximise the safety of our staff and those they encounter.



While we will continue to employ these measures when site visits are necessary, Lote has been investigating the efficacy of alternative means to safely conduct inspections, by recently conducting a virtual site inspection for a high risk aged care site, where the client had implemented additional restrictions given their elevated risk profile. Use of integrated phone and computer software has allowed Lote to conduct these ‘virtual inspections’ with the assistance of on-site staff. Similarly, Lote has been investigating the usefulness of tools such as remotely piloted drones to supply aerial photography and video for inspection purposes, as well as the feasibility of smaller drones for indoors on empty sites.

Lote continues to approach areas such as site inspections with an eye for innovation, investing in discovering methods of making processes safer in the current context as well as creating avenues for increased automation and efficiency in future practice. As we utilise safer tools to a greater extent, we also continue to practice safer physical site inspections and advocate for those we visit to do the same. Lote is committed to stopping the spread of COVID-19, and will continue to improve upon our methods in partnership with other organisations in the construction and planning industry.

