



## Press Release

26 March 2020

### **Pests set to flourish during the Coronavirus outbreak**

Pest control is already on the front line of public health around the world; given the situation we now find ourselves in it could prove even more essential. The closure of schools, pubs, restaurants, hotels, tourist attractions and other public places to enforce social distancing will have unintended consequences.

Animals are always quick to adapt and British pest control manufacturer PelGar International anticipates that many pest species will flourish as a direct result of these necessary global measures.

Our general day-to-day activity keeps many pests at bay in our work and leisure environments; pests generally prefer to keep away from human contact and infestations are quickly spotted and dealt with.

However, the complete closure of many premises means that pest technicians may no longer have access to continue existing pest control plans or deal with a rise in infestations. PelGar's head of technical, Sandy Mackay comments: "If pests have adequate food and water within these building populations will quickly escalate.

If food and water are in short supply inside those buildings, pests will disperse in search of them outside. The lack of public social movement, added to a decrease in cleaning and grounds maintenance, will also embolden pests which are normally keen to keep out of sight; enabling them to flourish. We should expect therefore to see an increase of pests like rats on our streets in search of easy food from litter and bins. This is already happening in some areas; New Orleans in the USA for example are already stepping up their baiting programme to combat this issue.

Within our own homes we may see an increase in mice, ants and flies as they too profit from our reduced movement. Ensure you continue to keep your homes and gardens tidy and your rubbish in bins to discourage pests.”

Governments around the world are united in ensuring that basic sanitation will continue as an essential service throughout this period. In New Zealand pest control technicians have been highlighted as essential workers, especially when treating sites that are classed as essential services including healthcare and food services. If pests are making a domestic property uninhabitable, emergency pest control services can also be carried out if the residents can vacate to a safe place.

Even so, some may not be able to access closed premises they routinely manage whilst others will. Some may be able to provide an emergency domestic service whilst others may have vulnerable family members they would prefer to protect. Companies, technicians and residents must balance the needs of pest control against the safeguarding of their customers, staff and families; that is not a blanket decision that the industry can make but one for individual consideration.

Around the globe the relevant pest control authorities are advising their members on the way forward. Whatever the outcome of those decisions, we must be aware that pests are not constrained by our social distancing measures and will flourish in our absence.

In New Zealand people can find a pest controller in their area though the Pest Management Association of New Zealand website: <https://www.pmanz.nz/find-a-professional.html>

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**About:**

**PelGar International** is the leading British manufacturer of pest control products for the control of public health and farming pests around the world. PelGar operates from its headquarters in Hampshire, England and through local offices in mainland Europe, Africa, Australasia and North America.

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