

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Information for Community Car Schemes

General Information:

You can keep up-to-date with the government's advice to the public here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

You should also consider the government's advice to employers, which can also be followed by volunteer-involving organisations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-covid-19>

Preventing the spread of infection

Everyone in the UK is advised to undertake social distancing measures: these are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Public Health England advise that everyone takes the following precautions (This is the same advice given for the avoidance of general colds and flu)

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. See <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>
- put used tissues in the bin straight away
- wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. See https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/86606/5/Handwashing_techniques.pdf
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

If you think you are unwell

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. If you think you or someone close to you has symptoms or may have been exposed to the virus, follow NHS guidance to find out what to do next:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Information specific to community transport schemes:

- Many of your clients and volunteers may fall into the categories of those most at risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). Please ensure you keep up-to-date on the latest government guidance to keep yourself and others safe: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
- Social distancing guidance advises everyone to avoid non-essential use of public transport. You may wish to ascertain whether a journey is essential before providing a service.

- Patients should contact the relevant healthcare department, who may postpone the appointment or make alternative arrangements. If NHS advice is that the journey is essential, you should undertake a full risk assessment to determine the best course of action.
- The government has published guidance for staff in the transport sector:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector>
- Wash hands frequently using soap, water and paper towels. When this is not available, you can use alcohol based (at least 60%) hand sanitiser gel. Hand-washing is particularly important before and after taking public transport so make sure you remind your passengers of the need to do this.

Cleaning your vehicles

You may already have procedures in place to ensure the interiors of your vehicles are kept clean. You should consider whether you need to increase the frequency of your cleaning regime and take any additional measures.

Focus especially on areas of the vehicle which receive the most regular contact with and including:

- Door handles
- Handrails
- Head rests
- Seat grab handles
- Seat backs
- Seat belts (tongue/buckle/webbing.)

When cleaning your vehicle, there are a few things to bear in mind:

- Using too much water/liquid can make interior fabrics damp, which will increase the likelihood that germs will collect and thrive. This can be overcome by being careful with the amount of water/disinfectant being used and maintaining adequate ventilation both during cleaning and vehicle operation. Adhesives can also fail with excessive cleaning.
- Make sure wet floors and surfaces are dried before passengers board.

Further updates to this information will be posted on our website here:

<https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/projects/community-transport/>