

Taxi Newsletter March 2020

As you all know the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way people work and live. Government advice is widely available but as you come into close contact with many people there are some measures you should be taking to protect yourself and your passengers. You are probably asking yourself lots of question so here is some advice which may help you.

Let me just reassure that we are here to help you stay on the road so if there is something you are not sure about either call us or email

What can you do to protect yourself and passengers?

Ideally every vehicle should be disinfected after every hiring, but this is clearly not practically possible. However, it would be possible to ensure that some form of cleaning of obvious areas takes place - door handles, seat belts and buckles and any other obvious hard surface that may have been touched by a passenger. This would include areas that may have been infected following a passenger coughing or sneezing such as physical divisions between the front and rear of the vehicle, the rear of front seats and so on. The guidance from the Government is

"frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products"

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

If you have symptoms

If you or a family member who you share a household with has Covid-19 or any of the symptoms and are self-isolating you are strongly advised not to operate as a driver and follow Government guidance on Covid-19.

Visiting the Civic Centre

The Civic Centre remains open to the public for essential visits, face to face meetings will not take place.

What will happen if my licence, (vehicle, drivers or operators) is due to expire soon.

Wherever possible please submit any applications or documents via email, if you do not have access to email you can post them to us. Only as a last resort should you drop them of at the Civic Centre, avoid this if at all possible.

The licensing section will continue to function although some of us may be redeployed to assist in other Council essential services.

We will be taking a flexible and pragmatic approach to our licensing service and may have to change some of our working practices at short notice to allow licensing to function but whatever happens we will let you know either as individuals or as a group.

Our aim is to continue to provide a licensing service so we don't have the situation where your licence can not be renewed or indeed granted if it is a new application.

My DBS check is due

DBS checks can still be done, as a temporary measure we are looking at a way of doing these without the need for you to come to the Civic Centre. If this effects you, we will contact you individually and explain what you must do.

My medical is due

If you medical is due, you will already have received a reminder letter and the medical form.

It is possible that you may not be able to get a medical booked and Doctors may be redeployed or busy with other tasks, that is quite understandable.

If you are due a 5 or 1 yearly routine medical and you can not get an appointment or if you have a condition which requires a specific type medical test or evidence to show you meet the DVLA group 2 standard and you are unable to obtain such a test/evidence due to this public health emergency, please contact us and make us aware asap.

We may temporarily suspend the requirement for your medical although you will be asked to sign a disclaimer stating that your health has to the best of your knowledge remained unchanged since your last medical and you have no new underlying health conditions.

We will decide each case on its own merits of course and consult the Councils independent medical advisor where necessary.

My MOT is due

If Mot stations close, we would consider matters relating to MOT's at that stage, we will keep an eye on this. If you hear of this happening and you are having problems getting a MOT, then call us for advice.

My vehicle needs plating

Vehicle plating's will continue but we will most likely try and do them on one single day a week, if there is a need to do more days then we will of course.

Help us to help you and get your paperwork in early so we can all plan ahead.

When you turn up for plating please leave the vehicle and stand at least 10 metres away, do not be tempted to give the licensing officer a hug or handshake!

Make sure your vehicle is clean and has been disinfected as above, the licensing officers will make their own judgement on whether to clean anything they are required to touch as well.