

Sharing External Resources

This resource was shared with CTA by **Green Community Travel in June 2020**. This gives an NHS England perspective for volunteer drivers who may be transporting non symptomatic residents to essential medical appointments. Please note that this guidance may change according to updates to UK Government guidelines which you can find at ctauk.org/covid19-guidance/



PPE Guidance for NHS Volunteer Responders Patient Transport Role

The latest Public Health England (PHE) guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recommends the use of a “single use surgical mask” when transporting patients without symptoms, and where you cannot maintain social distancing (keep a 2-meter distance).

As a patient transport volunteer, you are required to wear a single use surgical mask when transporting patients to/from appointments or home from hospital.

The organisation who made the referral for the patient is required to provide you with PPE for your journey(s). One journey will require one mask for the duration of the trip so a journey to/from an appointment would require two masks.

You will be required to go collect your PPE before picking up the patient. If you are picking someone up from home, you will need to collect your PPE first before you collect the patient.

Patients are not usually required to wear a mask however some patients may have been advised to by a health professional (for example dialysis patients) or some may choose to wear a mask. You are not required to provide masks for patients to wear.

For the masks to offer effective protection it is important you follow the guidance below in how to put on and take off your PPE. It is also important you dispose of your PPE correctly. Mask should be close fitting and fully cover the nose and mouth. Do not touch the front of the mask when being worn.

Exclusions:

- You will not be required to transport patients who have symptoms of COVID-19.
- You should transport people who are “fully ambulatory” i.e. they can get to/from and in/out of your car unaided. It is important to avoid direct patient contact as this will require full PPE.

PPE Procedure:

- On arrival put on your mask as per the guidance
- Maintain social distancing whilst you collect the patient and direct them to your car
- Keep your mask on for the entirety of your journey
- Once you have reached your destination and the patient has left your car you may take off the mask.
- Dispose of the mask in a clinical waste bin (if one available) or following the clinical waste guidelines below
- Wash hands or use handsanitisiser

Putting on PPE (“Donning”)

Pre Donning

- Ensure you are hydrated
- Remove any jewellery that might interfere with the mask
- Tie hair back, if necessary, if it will interfere with the mask

Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser



Put on facemask – position upper straps on the crown of your head, lower strap at nape of neck.



With both hands, mould the metal strap over the bridge of your nose.



Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser



Taking Off PPE (“Doffing”)

Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser



Remove face mask by untying or breaking the bottom ties, followed by top ties or elastic



Remove by handling the ties only. Lean forward slightly. Dispose of mask.



Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser



Please see donning and doffing video to support this guidance:

<https://youtu.be/eANIs-Jdi2s>

Disposal of PPE

Ideally you should dispose of clinical waste in the GP/hospital clinical waste bins. If you are disposing of PPE at home, then you should follow the below guidance

- Place used PPE in a household rubbish bag and tie securely.
- Place this in a second household rubbish bag and mark so you know what it is
- Store securely for 72 hours
- Throw away in the regular household waste

Car decontamination

You must clean your car before and after every patient you transport using household disinfectant (provided this is suitable for hard surfaces and leather/leatherette upholstery). Single step wipes can be purchased that “clean and disinfect” and be used according to the manufacturers’ instructions and recommended product “contact times” must be followed.

If you have fabric seats, then you should use disposable seat covers. Disposable seat covers must be fluid repellent and are single use only. These should be disposed of at the end of your journey/round trip along with clinical waste.

Depending on the products you are using, you should consider wearing disposable gloves whilst cleaning. These should be disposed of after you have finished cleaning along with clinical waste.

Clean all exposed surface areas within one metre radius of where the patient was sitting

Particular attention must be paid to all high-touch points including the steering wheel, gear lever, handbrake and door handle, all exterior door handles and door/window pillars.

Dispose of cleaning materials and any disposable seat covers along with your PPE as clinical waste guidelines

Wash your hands thoroughly when you have finished cleaning