

Training during coronavirus

Last updated 28 August 2020

As organisations begin get their vehicles back on the road it's vital that drivers and passenger assistants are up to date with their training and are able to carry out their role confidently and safely. This means ensuring their MiDAS and PATS certificates are up to date.

CTA have been very flexible in granting certificate extensions during the pandemic, so as journeys are planned, plans for refresher training should also be made.

Both MiDAS and PATS trainers are able to deliver a combination of online theory training and face to face practical training to ensure your team are prepared for the work they'll be undertaking. Many trainers have adapted and implemented measures to ensure training is carried out in a safe and effective manner.

The types of things you may find are now common place when arranging training for your drivers and passenger assistants (PA's) are as follows:

- Trainers will need to limit the number of trainees to between 2 and 4 per course, taking into consideration the size of the venue.
- Trainers will need to evaluate the most suitable venue for training, this also includes the location of venue i.e. away from care homes and schools for instance
- Hand sanitizer will need to be made available for use throughout the course
- After each driver has completed a driving assessment the minibus controls will need to be wiped down with antibacterial wipes before another person can be assessed
- When necessary trainers and trainees will be required to wear face masks and disposable gloves
- Everyone will need to ensure they do their best to stay 2 metres apart and always ensure that mitigating measures, such as PPE are used if needing to work closer
- Trainers will do their best to minimise the amount of paperwork changing hands by having digital or online registration forms and theory assessments

- When carrying out minibus driving assessments this will be done on a 1 to 1 basis. The trainer will be seated at least 2 metres from the driver (rows diagonally behind)
- The vehicle should be well ventilated by opening windows and roof vents
- Trainers won't be able to provide refreshments and therefore trainees should take along refreshments for the session

Prior to being accepted on a course, drivers and PAs may be asked to provide the following information:

- Do they or anyone they live with have coronavirus symptoms?
- Have they been told by NHS Test and Trace Service that they have been in contact with a person with coronavirus?
- Have they returned to the UK since 10th August 2020? If so, which country and when?

Further changes may be made to accessible training conducted such as the trainer making use of a weighted and life-sized mannequin instead of asking one of the trainees to role play. Trainees may be asked to bring a person from their social bubble along to partner with for the accessible assessments.

Whatever methods are used and measures implemented trainers and organisations should work together to carry out a risk assessment to ensure thought has been given to providing a safe environment for trainees to learn in.

If you need any help or support, you can contact CTA's advice service via advice@ctauk.org

Case Study: Three Shires Driver Centre

In the Autumn 2020 issue of *Together*, CTA's quarterly membership journal, we profiled Three Shires Driver Centre who talked to us about how they're adapting their training. [You can read the article here](#), and CTA members can read the full issue at ctauk.org/members-area.