

Dear Licence Holder

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Advice for drivers**

### **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ADVICE FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSEES**

Milton Keynes Council is providing the following Government Guidance to taxi and private hire vehicle drivers, to help keep drivers and their customers' safe and prevent transmission of the COVID 19 virus.

We advise all licensees, including taxi and private hire drivers, to follow these simple and sensible precautionary steps at all times to prevent the spread of the virus.

The following information provides guidance on keeping you and your family safe at home and whilst at work. More information and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

#### **Key messages:**

##### **Your health**

- If you have a recent or new continuous cough and/or high temperature (+37.8°C), stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. You can contact [NHS 111 online](#) if your symptoms worsen or are no better after 7 days. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. 999 should be contacted in the event of an emergency.
- If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.

##### **Social Distancing**

- This means limiting the amount of contact with other people for example, if you do need to go out to food shop or for your work, ensure you stay at least 2 meters away from others.

##### **Vulnerable groups and COVID 19**

- Certain people are more likely to be affected very badly by the virus especially older people, those with an underlying health condition and pregnancy. It is particularly important that these people adopt the social distancing advice.

##### **Hand hygiene**

- Washing your hands more often than usual is advised for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitizer if that's all you have at that time.

### **Reducing the spread of germs**

- To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue in a bin immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitizing gel.

### **Cleaning**

- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

### **COVID 19: TAXI and PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS**

The Government has not currently put any restrictions on these services. However it is important that the measures recommended above are used to help protect drivers and their customer as they go about their work.

- Always carry tissues and use them to catch coughs and sneezes
- Dispose of used tissues in a bin as soon as possible – you could carry bin liners in your car for you and your customers. Double bag all used tissues.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water, or if not possible use sanitiser gel, to kill germs.
- Where possible ask all passengers to sit in the back of vehicles sitting away from each other if vehicle size allows.
- Take precautionary measures by cleaning surfaces regularly with routine cleaning materials or sanitising wipes or spray to get rid of germs. (e.g. beginning, middle and end of shift) Wipe over seats and card payment devices. Licensees who share a taxi or private hire vehicle should regularly clean the steering wheel and instruments.
- Where possible use card devices/contactless payments to avoid handling coins and notes.
- Older drivers or drivers who have underlying conditions such as heart disease or diabetes should if possible undertake other jobs to avoid unnecessary contact with other people as they are more likely to become very ill from COVID-19

We would expect all private hire operators to fully cooperate with any enquiries they may receive from Public Health England or any other relevant agencies.

Whilst the above advice is current at the time of writing, please regularly check the [Public Health England website](#).