



The TAS Partnership Limited
Passenger Transport Specialists

TAS is currently supporting the CT sector at a time when unprecedented demands are being placed upon it. Our initial information sheet was circulated on 6 April – this newsletter provides updates. For previous information, newsletters, and further debate on the current crisis, please see TAS website:

<https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

Hand Sanitiser Controversy!

Last week we passed on an NHS Property Services safety alert (dated 26 May) that warned of alcohol-based hand sanitiser becoming combustible in hot temperatures (e.g. when left in vehicles). This had been widely circulated (including by the police) and reported in the national media. Many people have commented that the alert was misleading at best, or a plain hoax. Whatever the intent of the original message, it is now generally agreed that whilst there are safety issues involved in alcohol-based sanitisers being used in vehicles (it is flammable), the risk of it causing a fire is dependent on contact with a source of ignition (spark or flame). This is a standard warning which is given on the packaging of each product. NHS Property Services has now Tweeted the following (on 24 June): "We are aware of media interest in an internal note we issued last month. It is now our understanding that risks associated with hand sanitisers in vehicles only become apparent when in contact with a spark. We will be issuing a formal alert to our frontline teams to clarify this."

<https://twitter.com/NHSProperty/status/1275789158833946624>

**Community
Transport
& COVID-19
NEWS No.11**
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Edited by John Atkins



**Please use
hand sanitiser
before
entering**

TAS & CTA Have Produced New Guidance for CT Operators

In collaboration with Community Transport Association, TAS has contributed to a new guidance resource including short summary check lists for drivers. Restarting Your Services - Guidance for Community Transport Operators contains information on:

-) Social distancing
-) PPE and face coverings
-) Putting together a comprehensive risk assessment
-) Training
-) Looking after staff, volunteers and passengers
-) Your vehicles
-) Car schemes

It is available here:

<https://ctauk.org/covid19-guidance/>

**Coronavirus / COVID-19
Guidance for
Community Transport**

cta
community transport
association



New Social Distancing & Shielding Guidance

This is noted in the CTA guidance above. From the 4 July new social distancing guidance will apply. This essentially means a wider range of businesses, amenities and facilities will be able to open subject to certain measures being in place. The advice for “Clinically Vulnerable People” (including all those over 70) is that they “can spend time outdoors in a group of up to 6 people (including those outside of their household). Extra care should be taken to minimise contact with others by maintaining social distancing. This can be in a public outdoor space, or in a private garden or uncovered yard or terrace.” This guidance will also apply from 1 August to the “Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People” (aka Shielded): “In practice, this means staying at home as much as possible, and if people do go out, taking particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household (unless you are in a support bubble) and robustly practising good, frequent hand washing.” With a wider range of facilities and options being available, CT operators will need to consider how they wish to define “Essential Journeys” – this is no longer a travel restriction apart from in Wales. However, the Govt. are still dissuading people from using public transport where possible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>

From 1 August shielding is ‘paused’ in England and SSP, the food box and medicine delivery service will cease. The latter will affect many CT organisations. Also, from 1 August the shielded can go food shopping again. Current guidance in Scotland runs out on 31 July but no new guidance is out yet. Wales stays as is until 17 August.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

The Govt. review into social distancing noted that “Public transport presents a high risk owing to prolonged indoor contact between a high number of users from different households, although this may be mitigated in part by capacity limits, face coverings, screens, cleaning and

ventilation. We recommend that 1m distancing with face coverings is allowed on public transport; as increased capacity is necessary for economic growth, social activity and to facilitate more children returning to school.” The review findings and circumstances when distancing of less than two metres can be acceptable with mitigations are outlined here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-two-metre-social-distancing-guidance/review-of-two-metre-social-distancing-guidance>



Notable CT Activities from Around the Country

Transport for London’s Dial-a-Ride service has been profiled in Intelligent Transport. Manager James Mead writes: “With so many of our members unable to travel, the service wound down to a reduced operation in March. Communicating with our members has been vital, they’ve been reassured that the service is still there if they really need it and that we’ll keep them updated about how and when we will be safely reintroducing more services. While the day-to-day role had changed, we were presented with an opportunity to use our spare capacity and work with other agencies, including local authorities, local transport groups and the NHS, to discuss the challenges they were facing in delivering their own services as the pandemic rapidly unfolded. This collaborative approach led to an agreement whereby Dial-a-Ride would help on an ad-hoc basis, alongside TfL’s black cab subcontractor CityFleet Network, to deliver a range of goods to homes, offices and facilities across London.”

<https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-articles/101169/how-tfls-dial-a-ride-service-has-been-helping-london-families-during-the-pandemic/>



Concern Wadebridge (Access Wadebridge), stepped up to support the people of Wadebridge and outlying areas, using its minibuses to provide much needed community support. Andy Lyle Manager of Concern Wadebridge said: "We had plans put in place and once Boris put us into lockdown we were able to continue to support our local community in a practical way providing:

-) Hot Meal Meals on Wheels Service
-) Frozen Food Service
-) Fresh Meat & Veg Service
-) General Grocery Service
-) Prescription Service
-) Transport To Health / Delivery of Medical Equipment.

And anything else we got asked for! Our Volunteers and Community Minibuses came into their own, reaching the most needy and those self-isolating. The challenge now is how we retain our volunteers and source funding to help sustain Community Transport in our area once some sort of normality returns."

<https://www.concernwadebridge.org.uk/>



The volunteers for People to Places (Windsor & Maidenhead) have been praised in an article written by Catherine Godbold for The Focus. Catherine, who is also a volunteer with People to Places, writes about volunteer Andy and his dedication to his passengers' needs: "Andy's smiling face on their doorstep is the highlight of their week. Often, his knock signals their only chance to leave the house...Unlikely heroes they may seem, Andy and his colleagues are literally saving lives. Because as we've learnt over these past few months, even with Zoom and Teams and Skype and HouseParty, if you're forced to stay at

home, you can feel incredibly alone." Andy says: "I've been driving for People to Places for over 20 years now. It still makes me sad, knowing the suffering people experience trapped at home 24/7. But I love it too, hearing all their stories and knowing our trips together bring them real happiness".

<https://www.thefocus.news/health-and-fitness/lifelines-not-headlines-the-invisible-community-transport-heroes-in-high-vis-vests/>



A passenger of Fermanagh Community Transport has been featured in a BBC article considering how the pandemic might affect long-term commuting habits. Supermarket worker Bernie Cheshire, who lives in a rural community outside Enniskillen, said "It feels strange being on my own but it is clean and I am well looked after. If I need to wear a mask on the bus in the future, I will do it." Manager Jason Donaghy added: "People have been offered jobs but then say they can't get to work because of transport difficulties. Many of our workers are on a minimum wage so running a car is not an option and buses may not go near their homes. We are being ultra-cautious by only taking one person at a time, but we hope we might be able to facilitate three people on the bus moving forward."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-53070125>



Harwich Connexions' Dial-a-Ride is resuming services, reports the Harwich & Manningtree Standard. Co-ordinator Debbie Hill said: "Our emergency community services have included picking up shopping lists and bags, dropping off shopping once done, as well as delivering prescriptions, food parcels and offering help

and support. We have also supported the team producing hot meals for housebound and vulnerable residents which has been particularly welcomed whilst the Age Concern lunch club has been closed". New volunteers are being sought for the Dial-a-Ride.

<https://www.harwichandmanningtreestandard.co.uk/news/18526425.dial-a-ride-back-needs-volunteers/> & <http://www.harwichconnexions.co.uk/cms/dial-a-ride.html>



Age UK Lindsey (North Lincolnshire) has been faced with financial difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately its Community Transport service has now permanently ceased operations. Chief Executive Andy Storer told the Grimsby Telegraph that "it is with a very, very heavy heart that these decisions have been made and we understand the impact they may well have on some older people right across our area. However, they are a reflection of the stark choices we are faced with as our funding streams have been severely impacted upon. As hard as we have tried, we have been unable to secure enough funding to cover these financial losses and I must stress that we have tried every avenue that was possibly open to us."

<https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/local-news/community-transport-service-stop-covid-4262077>



Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020

This Act was passed last week and is designed to protect companies and

Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) in England and Wales from some of the severe financial consequences posed by the pandemic. The provisions of the Act include:

-) moratoriums, offering companies and CIOs breathing space from debt enforcement action so they have the chance to explore options for rescue or restructure
-) limiting termination clauses in supply contracts, to provide for continuity of supplies so companies and CIOs can carry on operating
-) temporary suspension of wrongful trading provisions, allowing company directors and trustees of CIOs to continue operating a charity through the emergency without the threat of personal liability
-) temporary suspension of the use of statutory demands and a restriction on winding up petitions, where a company or CIO cannot pay its bills due to the coronavirus emergency.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector#insolvency-help-for-charitable-companies-and-charitable-incorporated-organisations>

Meanwhile the Charity Commission has announced that AGMs need to be held by end of September. It said that AGMs "to be held between 26 March 2020 and 21 August 2020 can be delayed until 30 September 2020 at the latest. This is allowed by the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 and also applies to community benefit and friendly societies. It temporarily overrides the timing requirements in a charity's governing documents. This deadline of 30 September may be extended if the government thinks this is needed. We will update with any changes if they happen."

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector#agms-and-other-meetings-postponing-or-cancelling-meetings>



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email

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