



**The TAS Partnership Limited**  
**Passenger Transport Specialists**

**Community  
 Transport  
 & COVID-19  
 NEWS No.16  
 5 August 2020  
 Edited by John Atkins**

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/>

guidance, which includes a section on transport provision. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/>



**Driving Licence Renewal Update**  
 DVLA has announced an extension for driving licences that expire between 1 February 2020 and 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dvla-coronavirus-covid-19-update>

**Revised Advice to Operators from Traffic Commissioners**  
 The Office of the Traffic Commissioner has issued a revised advice note on 30 July which covers a range of issues mostly relevant to full PSV operations but of significance to any home to school transport operations (see Q15). Of general relevance, however, is the end to maintenance inspection interval relaxations from 1 September 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/905656/200730\\_Advice\\_Note\\_v8.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/905656/200730_Advice_Note_v8.pdf)



Response to Covid 19 – Operator Licensing, Local Bus Service Registration and Vocational Driver Conduct

Advice for Operators – 30 July 2020

**School Term Guidance for Scotland**  
 CT operators in Scotland who are involved with Home to School Transport will need to be aware of the Scottish Government

**Monitoring Tyre Pressures on CT Vehicles**  
 Although not directly COVID-19 related, Jon Critoph of Community Action Ledbury has shared this: “One thing that has always concerned me was the ability to accurately check tyre pressures especially on minibuses with a twin rear wheel set up and also to continually monitor the tyres during an outing. With the roads in the state they are in and with countless things dropped on the road it is only too easy to pick up a puncture which could lead to sudden tyre deflation or even a blowout and with a fully loaded minibus this could

be a very dangerous situation. In my looking into this a little further I came across a easily installable TPMS (Tyre Pressure Monitoring System) Most modern buses already have a system installed but it only checks the pressure and in my experience has often been slow to respond. This system involves removing the existing dust caps and putting a locknut and a special new cap on the wheel valve. The locknut stops or at least makes more difficult the theft of the cap (there is even a spanner in the box to nip this up tight. There is a battery powered (solar recharge) display to be stuck to the window and a hand held display unit which when held near the cap displays the exact tyre pressure on the wheel. The unit is designed to look at a number of factors on the tyres and offers a fast response warning. CT scheme operators can benefit from a special price if they wish to purchase these the set comes with caps for 4 wheels at £65 and two additional caps can be purchased if required for £15. All prices include VAT and post and packing. You can find out more at <https://wheely-safe.com/> Or speak to Deana Jones on 01543 396015 or Email: [deanaj@gx2technologygroup.co.uk](mailto:deanaj@gx2technologygroup.co.uk)

CARING FOR PEOPLE GROUP - ARGYLL AND BUTE  
LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE AFFECTED BY  
**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**VOLUNTEER TIPS:  
CLEANING YOUR VEHICLE**

**AFTER EVERY CONTACT CLEAN YOUR HANDS, DOOR HANDLES, STEERING WHEEL, SEATBELT BUCKLE AND GEARSTICK.**

**OTHER PARTS OF THE VEHICLE SHOULD BE CLEANED FREQUENTLY:**

- SEAT BELTS (incl. the metallic 'tongue', buckles & webbing material)
- KEYS
- DOOR HANDLES (incl. the boot /back door)
- HANDRAILS
- GRAB HANDLES
- DASHBOARD
- HEAD RESTS
- SEAT ADJUSTMENT BARS & LEVERS
- SEAT BACKS
- PHONE

**When cleaning your vehicle, there are a few things to bear in mind:**

- Using too much water/liquid can make interior fabrics damp, increasing the likelihood of germs to collect and thrive. This can be overcome by being careful with the amount of water/disinfectant being used and maintaining adequate ventilation both during cleaning and vehicle operation. Adhesives can also fall with excessive cleaning.
- Make sure wet floors and surfaces are dried before passengers board.
- Access the latest guidance at <https://cta.uk.org/covid19-guidance/>

This advice is based upon guidance posted from the Community Transport Association (CTA) and The TAS Partnership Ltd. Passenger Transport Specialists.

CARING FOR PEOPLE IN ARGYLL & BUTE HELPLINE: TEL. 01546 605 524



### Vehicle Cleaning Tips

Argyll & Bute Council has produced a very useful infographic for volunteer drivers to prompt vehicle cleaning, which can be applied to any vehicle type. This is based on the CTA's guidance but can be displayed as a poster and distributed as a flyer. It is easy to forget to clean the keys!

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/volunteertips-cleaningyourvehicle-2020-05-13.pdf>

### Welsh Government & Face Coverings

From last week (27 July) passengers on public transport services in Wales were required to wear face coverings. The scope of the regulation is intended to be comprehensive: "the requirement applies to all enclosed public transport vehicles including buses, coaches, trains, trams, ferries and aircraft (where they take off or land in Wales). It also applies to taxis and to tourist services, such as mountain railways and excursion buses." In England the policy was adopted from 15 June. Scotland adopted the policy on 20 June (on public transport and taxis) and Northern Ireland on 10 July (on bus, coach and train services, in public transport stations but not tour coaches and taxis or private hire vehicles). In all regions the dilemma as to whether CT should follow the guidance has been an individual choice. [https://gov.wales/requirement-wear-face-covering-public-transport-wales?\\_ga=2.25034042.1234051963.1595518109-1668612726.1575370742](https://gov.wales/requirement-wear-face-covering-public-transport-wales?_ga=2.25034042.1234051963.1595518109-1668612726.1575370742)

**Monday 27th July**

If you need to use public transport to travel, please follow all the **latest guidance from Welsh Government** and transport operators to help ensure the safety of yourself and fellow passengers.

From Monday 27th July, it is mandatory to wear a face covering on all public transport services in Wales. Please read the **latest Welsh Government guidance** for more information on when and where the requirement applies, exemptions, proof of exemptions and how the requirement is being enforced.

**Do not travel if you are experiencing coronavirus symptoms, are self-isolating, are clinically extremely vulnerable or are shielding.**

## Community Transport experiences from around the UK

Go Start (Sudbury) faces the loss of its HQ & vehicle depot due to the closure of Age UK Suffolk's Chilton Centre as a result of a funding crisis due to the pandemic. In the Suffolk Free Press, Go Start's treasurer John Phillips has appealed for voluntary sector support to keep the Chilton Centre base operational. The uncertainty around the future of the premises coincides with the restarting of the dial-a-ride service: "We're absolutely going to get dial-a-ride up and running," said John. "If we end up with our vehicles parked out on the street, so be it, but I don't want to have to do that...From my point of view, Go Start is a pretty critical service. People need to get out of their four walls, meet their friends, go shopping and do other things like go to the doctors' surgery."

<https://www.suffolkfreepress.co.uk/news/go-start-determined-to-overcome-crisis-despite-facing-possible-loss-of-sudbury-hq-due-to-closure-of-age-uk-suffolk-9117263/>



Sedbergh in Cumbria styles itself as England's Booktown answer to Wigtown and Hay-On-Wye and features a book-adsorbed bus shelter in the town centre. However, the s22 Western Dales Bus that serves Sedbergh, like many community

buses, is sadly currently not operational. The plight of the Community Bus sector is of some concern, especially with the many older volunteers having had to step back – the challenge will be considerable to the many rural services whose sustainability is already fragile.

<http://www.westerndalesbus.co.uk/>



Community Transport Sussex has featured in a series of Healthwatch West Sussex profiles on the theme "How have Community Organisation Adapted During the COVID-19 Crisis" and described as "an independent case study showing an example of one community organisation's story of adapting and what the future holds." The report notes that Community Transport Sussex "lost around 35% of its income. So, needed to protect contracts and continued to support keyworkers and vulnerable children to school or staff to vulnerable people. They retained all of their staff but 65% were furloughed. Only six staff have contracted hours, and most are on zero contracts – something they prefer as it provides flexibility. They were also engaged in taking essential supplies to people – parcels, food donations, food parcels, prescriptions etc. (in Horsham)." Future concerns are now centred on finance "as there will be a gap in funding as not being able to provide group hire and excursions, as they may not be financially viable due to social distancing – a driver and vehicle and only six people will be expensive. They may need to find a new financial model. There is also the need to

retro-fit vehicles to support social distancing guidance and to run safely, which needs to be funded."

<https://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/report/2020-07-24/how-have-community-organisations-adapted-during-covid-19-crisis>



### News from Australia

At TAS we have been monitoring how community transport overseas has been responding to the pandemic. In May, Transport for New South Wales opened a vehicle sanitisation station where deep cleaning was provided free. Point to Point Transport Commissioner Anthony Wing said the trial in Alexandria had been welcomed by both drivers and passengers. "It's also been great to see a number of community transport and Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Vehicles coming through for sanitisations, to support the needs of our most vulnerable passengers," he said. Vehicle sanitisation includes the disinfection of outside and inside door handles, boot handle, window controls, steering wheel, visors, centre console, gear stick, handbrake, grip handles, glove box, dashboard, seatbelts, seats, headrests, mobile phone holders, cup holders, fuel door, fuel cap meters, and payment equipment. Since May a number of further free cleansing facilities have been opened. Last week a facility opened in Tamworth, reported Northern Daily Leader: "Taxis, rideshares and hire vehicles are eligible for a daily sanitisation, on the front line against COVID-19. Tamworth MP Kevin Anderson said "This will give communities increased confidence in point to point transport services used for essential travel like going to the shops or medical appointments, including taxis and community transport services." This Australian initiative would certainly be welcomed in the UK.

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/media-releases/australias-first-vehicle-sanitisation-station-a-success> and <https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6852111/free-deep-clean-for-point-to-point-vehicles-in-battle-against-covid-19/>



### Jason Manford's CT Experience

A few weeks back we mentioned that comedian Jason Manford was volunteering as a driver for Stockport Car Scheme. He has now made a video reflecting on the experience!

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-8296035/Jason-Manford-lands-volunteer-job-driving-elderly-people-medical-appointments.html>



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email [john.atkins@taspartnership.com](mailto:john.atkins@taspartnership.com)