

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/>

School Transport Guidance & Face Coverings

Many authorities in England are grappling with how they can provide adequate school transport and there has been some debate about the fact that pupils aged 11 and over a) may or may not be required to wear face coverings in school (depending on local circumstances); b) are *mandatorily* required to wear a face covering on standard public transport; and c) are only *recommended* to wear face coverings on dedicated school or college transport. This certainly creates a challenge of consistency and understanding and a burden for transport operators and drivers to ensure compliance. **DfE** guidance states: "*from the autumn term local authorities will not be required to uniformly apply the social distancing guidelines for public transport on dedicated school or college transport. However, the full opening for schools guidance also sets out that distancing should still be put in place within vehicles wherever possible. It is of vital importance to work through the steps set out in this guidance. In particular:*

- *social distancing should be maximised within vehicles wherever it is possible, between individuals or 'bubbles';*

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- *it is very important to maximise the ventilation of fresh air (from outside the vehicle) on dedicated school and college transport, particularly through opening windows and ceiling vents;*

It is now the law that children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. This law does not apply to dedicated school transport. However, we recommend that local authorities advise people aged 11 and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college from the start of the autumn term. This does not apply to those who are exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport... We believe this is an appropriate balance, because:

- *the overall risk to children and young people of serious illness as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low*
- *they do not mix with the general public on those journeys*
- *home to school transport often carries the same group of children and young people on a regular basis, and they may also be together in school or college*
- *the predictability of home to school transport will allow for planning so that protective measures can be put in place."*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>



Hand Sanitiser Alert – Once Again!

After the **NHS Property Services** safety alert (dated 26 May) was claimed by many to be 'fake news', a recent report has emerged concerning a bottle of sanitiser bursting into flames in a London taxi. Whilst the circumstances around this vehicle fire are unclear, we can only suggest that CT operators exercise some caution regarding the handling and storage of some brands of sanitiser.

<https://www.taxi-point.co.uk/post/black-taxi-door-bursts-into-flames-due-to-stored-sanitiser-says-vehicle-recovery-firm>



Lincoln Area DialaRide Supports the Transport Community

Lincoln Area DialaRide has announced the following (11 August): *"Together with the **Department of Transport**, **Volunteering Matters** is working with local partners, community organisations and volunteers to co-ordinate a nationwide volunteer support programme to assist travellers at transport hubs as the government eases COVID-19 restrictions...**DialaRide** was contacted to see if they could offer support at Lincoln Railway Station. Deputy Manager **Penny Hardman** said 'as our new office for **DialaRide** and **ShopMobility** is located at the entrance to the City Car park, which is part of the new Transport Hub that was opened in 2018, it only seemed right we support our neighbours'". Volunteers and registered users of our services have offered their time to provide cover for two shifts a day for 6 weeks. They will be outside the railway station from 7am to 11am and 3pm to 7pm, Monday to Friday. The Volunteers are there to welcome passengers to the Station and support the flow in and out, guiding passengers through social distancing pathways and encouraging passengers to wear masks in the Station.*

*For supporting this Government Scheme all volunteers may claim travel expenses in accordance with the HMRC guidelines, and any remaining funds earned will go to support the mobility services, **Lincoln Area DialaRide** provides."*

www.lincolndialaride.co.uk.

The national scheme was launched in May and further details can be found on

Volunteering Matters website here:

<https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/news/14245/>



Test & Trace and CT Services

NHS Test & Trace (aka Track & Trace) was introduced in July to track backwards to identify and alert contacts of those newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. The scheme applies *"in premises where customers and visitors spend a longer time in one place and potentially come into close contact with other people outside of their household."* Transport and contact in vehicles is excluded from the scheme, but it could be argued that if a CT has a waiting facility for passengers (such as a Shopmobility unit) then it could be within the scope. The majority of CT operators will already maintain the details of passengers – although individuals can opt for their details not to be passed on, the scheme being voluntary. Before accepting any booking for a passenger questions need to be asked about any symptoms occurring with themselves or members of their household. It is also worth adding the question: *"Have you or any member of your household been contacted by Test and Trace because you or they have come into contact with someone who subsequently tested positive?"*

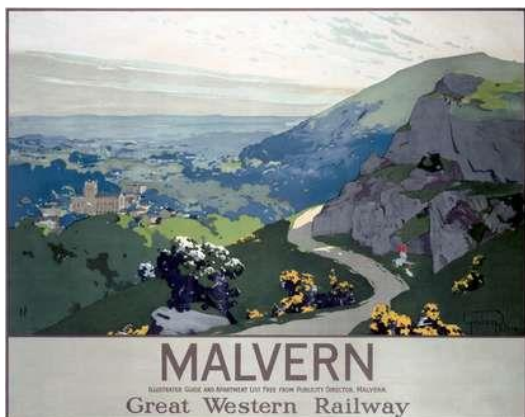
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>



Malvern Area CTs Benefit from Council Grant

Malvern Gazette has announced some welcome news for the local CT sector: "**Malvern Hills District Council** is providing funding to support innovative and sustainable community transport projects across the district. Working in partnership with crowdfunding platform **Spacehive**, the council has launched the **People Make Places: Ticket to Ride Fund** which will support transport projects that are citizen-led and community-based. The council has made a pot of £150,000 available over the next three years (across six rounds of funding) to support community transport initiatives. The maximum amount pledged to a project will be £50,000 or 50 per cent of the total project costs."

<https://www.malverngazette.co.uk/news/18664004.council-funding-available-community-transport-schemes-malvern/>



South Lanarkshire CTs Benefits from Funds but COVID delays EV Charging Points

The Daily Record has reported that "Plans to install more than 100 new electric vehicle (EV) charging points across South Lanarkshire have been delayed four months because of coronavirus... The £5.3 million project is a collaboration between North and South Lanarkshire Councils, Transport Scotland and Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)... **SPEN** are giving Lanarkshire community transport groups £1.2 million from their green economy fund to make the switch." Cabinet secretary for transport, infrastructure and connectivity **Michael Matheson** said he was "encouraged by SPEN's determination to support a green economy through their new awards to community transport providers based in Lanarkshire. This is helping to

ensure community groups can also take advantage of the many benefits of EVs in an inclusive and accessible way, helping to support our response to the climate emergency."

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/car-charger-project-south-lanarkshire-22520211>



CTs Nominated for Welsh Transport Awards

The **Welsh Transport Awards** are due to be held virtually on 9 October and the Community Transport Operator of the year has two nominations: **Dial-a-Ride Denbighshire** and **Gorseinon Community Car Scheme**. Additionally, manager of Dial-a-Ride Denbighshire **Bev Mather** has been nominated for the Women in Transport Award. **Business News Wales** said: "This year, more than ever, these awards will bring recognition to the unsung heroes that are working extremely hard to keep business in Wales moving in these unprecedented times."

<https://businessnewswales.com/finalists-announced-for-the-2020-wales-transport-awards/> and <https://www.walestransportawards.co.uk/>



North Coast Community Transport & National Lottery Community Fund Award

Belfast Live has announced that "Northern Ireland communities are due to get a huge funding boost from the **National Lottery** which aims to make a difference to the lives of those who need it most. **North Coast Community Transport** is using a £500,000 grant to run their 'Wheels to

Wellbeing' project over the next four years, with fully adapted buses and vehicles providing transport for older and vulnerable adults living in rural areas. The project helps users to attend appointments and other activities to improve their lives and keep them connected and active in their area. **Kate Beggs**, Northern Ireland Director of The National Lottery Community Fund said: 'The wide range of projects funded today demonstrates the strength of their members and communities and the importance of staying connected with each other in these unprecedented times. It's inspiring to see all these groups, staff and volunteers rising to the challenges of Covid-19 and looking to the future, supporting people in need.'

<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/northern-ireland-communities-over-2-18778219>



HcL (Handicabs) Resumes Dial-a-Ride Service

Following its video on safety measures mentioned in the last newsletter, the **East Lothian Courier** has reported that "**HcL Transport (Handicabs)** is running its Dial-A-Ride service again after it was impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. While the service was operational during lockdown, it was limited to urgent medical appointments and funerals. Now, new enhanced cleaning procedures have been introduced both daily and between journeys, with drivers wearing PPE including masks. Passengers must wear masks, unless they have medical reasons to prevent them doing so. A maximum of four passengers from one household can travel at this time, accompanied by a carer."

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/18617825.charity-transport-service-returns-pandemic/>



North Yorks Community Transport Volunteers

Volunteers have been praised by **North Yorkshire County Council** including the CT service offered by **Stokesley and District Community Care Association**, which is part of a network of 23 Community Support Organisations. Manager **Phil Henderson** said: "When lockdown started, a lot of our volunteers were over 70 so they stopped going out and about doing things like prescription deliveries – but 50 new people came forward and wanted to help, which was amazing. We've done around 500 prescription deliveries and 280 food deliveries so far."

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/how-volunteers-are-helping-their-community-even-lockdown-lifts>



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email john.atkins@taspartnership.com