



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 and newsletters, please see TAS website:

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

COVID-19 Tests are Extended to Public Transport Workers and Care Personnel

Following much uncertainty, the Govt. policy on COVID-19 testing has now been extended to a wider cohort of key workers, including transport workers. However, the exact criteria is different for each country in the UK.

ENGLAND - testing extended to "transport workers, including those who keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus response" as well as "essential public services staff, including charities and workers delivering critical frontline services." If a CT has shifted its focus to food delivery then personnel should qualify as "critical personnel in the production and distribution of food, drink and essential goods, including those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery"

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

SCOTLAND - Scottish Govt. has indicated its priorities across four groups. CT personnel could qualify as either:

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Priority Group 2: Essential workers in critical national infrastructure fundamental for safety and security and life-line services which includes "Staff working for third sector organisations supporting people and children who are vulnerable"; Priority Group 3: Staff directly involved in delivering other essential services which includes "Public transport workers"; or Priority Group 4: Staff involved in volunteering including those "volunteering to provide support to vulnerable people and communities."

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-Scotland/>

WALES - testing is extended to Critical Workers which includes Transport Workers. Within each Local Resilience Forum area there are local referral arrangements in place.

<https://gov.wales/critical-workers-testing-policy-coronavirus-covid-19.html>



NORTHERN IRELAND – testing now to include "those necessary to enable the critical national infrastructure to continue to operate (e.g. utility, transport sectors)" and "those necessary to support the health and wellbeing of the community directly."

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/northern-ireland-extend-testing-coronavirus-key-workers>

Common to all parts of the UK is that the test is offered to those who have self-

isolated due to coronavirus symptoms appearing during the last three days, although testing is considered effective up until day five. The test is also available to anyone who lives in the same household as a key worker and has coronavirus symptoms.

It should be noted that policies apply to any transport worker, not just drivers or passenger assistants.



Additional Local Authority Funding

Local Government Secretary's announcement of £1.6 billion in additional funding has now been detailed in a Council-specific allocation. This may have some impact on how CT and local transport services are able to be funded depending on policy and priority. You can check the funding breakdown here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-emergency-funding-for-local-government>



Community Transport Association (CTA)

TAS has worked with CTA to produce operational guidance. CTA is providing regular information updates here:

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

Check above also for the remote advice drop-in sessions.

Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) Risk Management Guidance



With the assistance of TAS, CPT has produced a risk matrix which considers a range of mitigations that might be taken against various risks incurred in bus operations. This is aimed at conventional service bus operations but is also worth CT operators taking a look at (two links):

<https://markpurchase.cmail19.com/t/t-l-pljtll-qiywkdht-j/>

<https://markpurchase.cmail19.com/t/t-l-pljtll-qiywkdht-t/>

Social Care Institute for Excellence



SCIE has a range of guidance on continuing to provide care services whilst minimising risks. Although not transport specific, the website has much relevant material that CT operators may find useful.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19>

Karshare Community Scheme

How your donated cars are helping



Karshare, as its named suggests, is a car sharing resource. It has now launched an appeal for the loan of the many private cars that are currently sat idle, for key workers to use. Andy Hibbert said "We started the Karshare Community Scheme because we recognised NHS workers, food banks, care workers and other essential charities would need to use cars to provide essential services to those who most need them –

given the reduction in public transport and the need to minimise exposure. We started in Bristol, moved to Brighton and now we're into London in less than two weeks. We are keen to expand further to help as many frontline staff as we can in the coming weeks." The scheme also launched in Manchester last week.

<https://www.karshare.com/>

Notable CT Responses around the UK

QUBE

This Oswestry CT provides Dial-a-Ride services, arts and social activities. Chief Officer Laurel Roberts said: "We are working hard to make sure that nobody is left out during this difficult time. We are fortunate to have local contacts, resources and strong links with major agencies which means we can adapt and adjust our services to meet the needs of the moment. We are very lucky to have a strong platform upon which to offer assistance and will continue to do so throughout the situation. The team are all working from home but can still be contacted to provide help with shopping services, befriending support and arts activities."

<https://www.shropshirelive.com/news/2020/04/21/oswestry-charity-sets-up-homeworking-to-keep-support-services-running/>



TRIP Community Transport

Based in Honiton in Devon, TRIP in Devon reported that they "would have taken a bus out for Sunday lunch", as part of the Devon County Council 'Doing What Matters' project. The aim being to get people together, share a hot meal, and enjoy the company with new and old friendships.



However, given the COVID-19 'lockdown' Sharon Thorne, deputy manager of TRIP, thought it would be a good idea to deliver the meals as takeaways! Dan at The York Inn, Churchinford, where the original meal had been booked was happy to arrange the takeaways. Not only is this a brilliant way to help out our community, but it is also a great way to support local businesses through this hard time."

<https://www.tripcta.org/doing-what-matters/>

Newry & Mourne Community Transport



Newry & Mourne CT have been signalled out for praise by local Member of Legislative Assembly Liz Kimmins for "assisting in the delivery of food and medicine to households during the Covid-19 outbreak...Anyone in the community who needs help in getting supplies can avail of this service so you don't need to be a member to call them. I commend Newry and Mourne Community Transport with this initiative."

<https://www.newry.ie/news/mla-praises-rural-community-transport-group>

Welsh CT Initiatives



The Wales Co-Operative Centre has highlighted the work being done by three CT operators: Upper Amman Valley Community Transport in Tairgwaith (medical journeys supporting vulnerable and elderly people who still need to have

weekly blood tests and Warfarin injections, other medical journeys, picking up and delivering prescriptions. Delivery of vital food supplies such as undertaking food box deliveries to the local food bank and delivering school lunches for those children who would usually receive free school lunches at school); Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport (delivery of essential food, medication and other supplies, including animal foodstuffs to smallholdings and farms); and DANSA Crynant (delivery of freshly cooked hot meals.)

<https://wales.coop/community-transport-teams-are-helping-those-in-need-during-the-covid-19-crisis/>

New Govt. 'Bounce Back Loan' Scheme Announced

This is intended to "help small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000. The government will guarantee 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. Loan terms will be up to 6 years. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months. The government will work with lenders to agree a low rate of interest for the remaining period of the loan. The scheme will be delivered through a network of accredited lenders." It is not clear whether all voluntary sector bodies will be eligible for this scheme, but they are not in the list of excluded organisations.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

Transport For All



The London-based campaign and support group is campaigning to ensure that disabled and older people's needs continue to be recognised. CEO Kirsty Hoyle said: "It is essential that vital services such as

Turn Up And Go and Passenger Assist are protected and that disabled and older passengers are not forgotten about, left behind or further marginalised by social distancing efforts. We urge operators to remember that key workers can be disabled, and that disabled people still need access to essential travel. We encourage operators to redeploy resources and staff to support our members and those who are likely to be more isolated, and for longer, than the wider public."

<https://www.transportforall.org.uk/covid/>

House of Commons Transport Select Committee



The Transport Committee is inviting "transport workers, stakeholders and members of the public to write to them about the transport issues they face during the coronavirus outbreak. MPs will explore the impact felt by the industry, its workers and passengers in a rolling programme of work to monitor the impact of coronavirus on UK transport, sector by sector." This is an opportunity to highlight the extraordinary work being undertaken by CT operators at the present time, although it may feel premature to be reflecting on the current situation at this moment. The Govt. online portal is open to receive submissions until Monday 29 June 2020.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/221/coronavirus-implications-for-transport/>



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