

Covid19 Special Precautions

As part of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic it has been necessary to introduce some changes to lesson procedures to ensure risks of pupils, family and instructor contracting the virus are minimised as far as is practicably possible.

The following precautions are in **addition** to the general terms and conditions handed out after the first session to all pupils. Failure to comply with these terms could result in your lesson being cancelled with no refund.

PPE

There is much debate over the validity and effectiveness of various PPE items so the requirements are as follows

- Gloves – optional for learners but hands **MUST** be sanitised with provided hand gel on entry to vehicle, which is produced by Hygienics (part of fmcg group) and is quoted as having Active Ingredient: Ethyl Alcohol (70% w/w). Learners own gel may be used with consent of instructor.
- Gloves – instructor will by default **NOT** wear gloves as research suggests that using multiple sets of gloves during a working day is as likely to increase the risk of cross contamination. However protective gloves can be used by instructor at request of learner at point of lesson starting.
- Face masks/coverings –**UPDATE 21/7/20 ... As of 24th July 2020 in line with both test conditions and retail regulations across England both learner and instructor will be required to wear face masks/coverings as detailed below whilst in the vehicle together, regardless of open window or not. This seems the appropriate action to take to follow national and professional guidance available at this time. Until that date.....** both learner and instructor **MAY** wear adequate face and nose coverings at all times in the vehicle. At this time the guidelines from DVSA about returning to lessons clearly state that they are optional. Instructor will therefore **NOT** wear facemask **UNLESS REQUESTED BY LEARNER**. This is on a lesson by lesson basis and will be discussed before the start of each lesson. This remains the right of the learner to decide so they feel safest in the vehicle. Facemasks/coverings should be at least to the standard expected for use on public transport as described on the .gov website. If learners wish to make their own advice is available on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>. There must be clear verbal communication possible with any face mask/covering that is used between both learner and instructor.
- Full face visors – these are prohibited! It is not clear how these would contribute to injury in the event of an airbag deploying and different visors may distort peripheral vision which needs to be clear in a learner driver setting to allow for clear judgement where experience is restricted.

Vehicle and Personal Sanitising

As part of every lesson it will be the instructor's responsibility to clean the vehicle contact points to reduce the risk of viral contamination as far as practicably possible. It will also be necessary for learner and instructor to observe adequate hand sanitisation practices at the beginning and end of every session.

- Vehicle entry and contact points – At the beginning and end of each session the following contact points on the vehicle will be sprayed with an Antiviral Surface cleaner. The cleaner used is produced by Hycolin and the MSDS for this can be obtained from www.information sheets.com/hycolin.
Contains: Alkyl (C12-16), dimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride (ADBAC/BKC (C12-16)) 0.125g/100g <5% Disinfectants.
 - Exterior door handles – passenger & driver
 - Interior door handles – passenger & driver
 - Steering wheel

- Gearstick and surrounding boot
- Handbrake
- Seatbelt buckles and locks
- Heater controls
- Centre rear view mirror surround
- Door controls for windows and door mirror adjustment
- Indicator and wiper stalk controls
- Seat adjustment controls
- Hand sanitising – both learner and instructor will sanitise hands using the aforementioned hand gel “produced by Hygienics (part of fmcg group) and is quoted as having Active Ingredient: Ethyl Alcohol (70% w/w)”. If the learner wishes to use their own gel it needs to clearly indicate, so the instructor can see, that it has an active alcohol ingredient of at least 70%.
- Swapping seats – there are instances where learner and instructor change seating position. This is most commonly for learners early in their instruction that need to be driven to appropriate roads, but could also more rarely occur where learner may need a demonstration by the instructor mid lesson. In any case where a change in seating happens the full sanitisation process will need to be repeated, this will have to form part of the lesson timing as cannot always be planned for. The process will be completed as quickly as is safe but **will** need to happen.
- Instructor intervention – where instructor occasionally needs to intervene with controls (mainly steering) the touched controls need to be resprayed as soon as it is safe and convenient for the vehicle to be pulled over to the side of the road. At this point the learner has the option of re-applying hand gel if they wish.
- Behaviours – in accordance with the critical workers test procedures adopted by the DVSA the following behaviours should be adopted as part of each lesson
 - Windows open where possible – typically passenger front and drivers rear window open to allow maximum ventilation. Where bad weather dictates, at minimum, ventilation should be switched on. Re-circulation option should be disabled under all circumstances on the HVAC system.
 - Side to side communication – this naturally occurs owing to seating position but both learner and instructor should make every effort to keep all communication side to side rather than face to face.
 - Greeting – no handshaking or other form of physical greeting should take place.
 - No sharing of pens or mobile devices for learning activities – all instruction should be given visually only with any interaction with the learner taking verbal form only.
- Lesson cancellation – if you have to cancel your lesson for either having to self-isolate for 14 days because you are showing Covid19 symptoms or you have been contacted by the NHS Track & Trace team instructing you to isolate you will NOT be charged for missing the lesson. As the responsible party in a learner situation, if your instructor suspects that you are showing symptoms, they may cancel the lesson at any stage without charge.
- Instructor illness – the instructor cannot be responsible for Covid19 symptoms or instructions from Track or Trace NHS team. In the event of a test being booked and your instructor becoming unwell it is the learner’s responsibility to source an insured car for the test as the instructor’s car will not be available but the instructor will give as much assistance in that as possible.

These conditions are not exhaustive but represent a responsible approach to reducing the risk of Covid19 contamination within a learner driver setting. It will incur longer periods between lessons for cleaning the vehicle so I would ask that learners be patient if places are limited due to time constraints. By replying to this email/message as having read it you are agreeing to comply with these precautions.

Any learner under 18 years old will need to instruct a parent or guardian to submit an acceptance email / message saying this has been read and understood. Please do not take offence at this, it is a legal requirement, not an indication of lack of trust!

If you (or anyone from your household) have or show any symptoms please let me know as soon as possible – communication is the best way to tackle any situation and I will always work hard to ensure you get the best learning experience possible.