



The following is based on guidance in the following: [‘Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in or from a vehicle’](#)

The summary below *must be read in the context of the full guidance above, which has been produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) with “input from business, unions, industry bodies and the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, in consultation with Public Health England (PHE) and the HSE”*.

The BEIS guidance covers ‘working in or from a vehicle includes mobile workers, on-site transit and work vehicles, field forces and similar’.

The following summarises those measure that can be used to mitigate the risk of coronavirus transmission if workers *must be less than 2m apart* while travelling.

Before work-related travel commences, conduct a **suitable and sufficient risk assessment**. The selected coronavirus mitigation measures should not create, or interfere with the control of, other significant health and safety risks, including occupant road safety.

Social distancing and vehicle travel

As a priority, consider if essential work-related travel can be achieved in single occupancy vehicles – avoid vehicle sharing if possible, and avoid multiple vehicle occupancy where safe to do so. Consider using a larger vehicle than usual, that may help to enable social distancing.

However, where social distancing guidelines *cannot be followed* for work-related vehicle travel, first consider whether the travel *needs to continue for the business to operate* and if so, *take ‘all mitigating actions’ possible* to reduce the risk of viral transmission.

Mitigating actions may include:

- Reduce the amount of travelling required, where possible
- Where travel is necessary, keep the travel time *as short as possible*
- Increase the frequency of workers’ hand washing and surface cleaning*
- Limit the number of vehicle occupants – this may include leaving some seats empty
- Use a vehicle that allows spacing between occupants
- Reduce the number of workers each person has close proximity with by using ‘fixed pairs/teams or partnering’ (so a person works with only one other, or a few others) **

- Sit side-to-side (not passenger facing) whenever possible – and do not sit ‘three to a cab’ in driver front bench seats, or share vehicle bench seats
- Increase vehicle ventilation, making sure to increase the flow of air e.g. opening a window
- Use screens to separate workers from each other (e.g. clear, flexible lightweight plastic sheets).

Face coverings

Workers may additionally wear a face covering (e.g. a cloth/cotton mask) although wearing a face covering is optional and is not required by law.

The BEIS guidance (see link above) says:

“Evidence suggests that wearing a *face covering* does not protect (the wearer) but it may protect *others* if (the wearer is) infected but has not developed symptoms”.

“Face coverings are not a replacement for the other ways of managing risk, including minimising time spent in contact, using fixed teams and partnering for close-up work, and increasing hand and surface washing. The government would therefore not expect to see employers relying on face coverings as risk management (for the purpose of vehicle risk assessments)”.

The BEIS guidance does *not support the use* of tight-fitting face masks (such as FFP3 or surgical masks) as a mitigating measure.

*Hygiene and cleaning

Encourage workers to wash their hands before boarding vehicles.

Retain sufficient quantities of hand sanitiser /wipes within vehicles to enable this.

Using your usual cleaning products, regularly clean:

- the interior of vehicles between use, and in particular when used by different workers.
- equipment, objects and surfaces that are touched regularly (e.g. door handles, fuel pumps, vehicle key fobs)

Remove cleaning materials, waste and belongings from the vehicle at the end of a shift and ensure there are suitable waste disposal arrangements.

**Pairing/teaming

As far as possible, establish pairs, teams or shift groups so that where close proximity is unavoidable, this happens between the same people. Those working together in a vehicle should be in a fixed pairing as far as possible.

Brief drivers regularly on the need to implement the measures selected.

Note the BEIS guidance says: “No one is obliged to work in an unsafe work environment”.



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