

We recognise that the taxi and private hire trades have concerns regarding the possible implications of the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The best protection is good hygiene and cleaning.

HM Government and NHS public information provides useful advice on how to slow the spread of the virus. This is the same advice to slow the spread of other germs including flu and general coughs and colds.

The advice is to:

- Always carry tissues and use them to catch coughs and sneezes
- Dispose of used tissues in the bin as soon as possible
- Wash hands with soap and water, or use sanitiser gel, to kill germs. This is particularly important before eating or smoking/vaping.

All drivers and operators must take sensible and routine precautionary measures such as cleaning surfaces regularly with sanitising wipes or spray to get rid of germs. A clean vehicle is a healthy vehicle!

This includes:

All customer contact points such as door handles (inside and out), window switches, grab handles, seat facings and card payment devices (do not spray keypads with any fluids!) should be cleaned daily.

Drivers who share a taxi or private hire vehicle should clean the steering wheel, door handles, control stalks, gear knob, handbrake and instruments at the end of their shift.

Public Health England is the lead agency and is providing regularly updated information for the public on the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) including the current situation in the UK and information about the virus and its symptoms.

If you are worried about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), have a cough, temperature or shortness of breath and have been in physical contact with someone from an affected area then the NHS advises you to:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- contact NHS 111 Online: <https://111.nhs.uk/>

We would expect all private hire operators to fully cooperate with any enquiries they may receive from Public Health England or any other relevant agencies.