



Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for taxi and private hire licensees

Following the advice of NHS England and Public Health England, Southampton City Council is providing the following guidance to taxi and private hire vehicle drivers in the city, to help prevent potential transmission of Coronavirus should it become more prevalent in the country.

Drivers are encouraged 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
- Clean surfaces regularly with sanitising wipes or spray to get rid of germs

We advise all licensees, including taxi and private hire drivers, to follow these simple and sensible steps at all times and particularly in the wake of the outbreak of Coronavirus. We would also encourage licensees to take sensible and routine precautionary measures such as cleaning surfaces regularly with sanitising wipes or spray to get rid of germs. As ever, Taxi drivers should consider regularly cleaning card payment devices. Licensees who share a taxi or private hire vehicle should consider regularly cleaning the steering wheel and instruments.

Public Health England is the lead agency and is providing regularly updated information for the public on the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in China, including the current situation in the UK and information about the virus and its symptoms. You can access the most up-to-date information on the Gov.uk Website

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
- Call NHS 111

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.

Whilst the above advice is current at the time of writing, please regularly check the Public Health England website and Government / NHS websites for updated information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>