

Drivers Continuing to Work with COVID-19 Symptoms

We have a report expressing concerns that drivers may have been working when they have COVID-19 symptoms. If drivers do work with symptoms, not only do they put the public at serious risk, they are also risking their private hire and/or hackney carriage drivers' licence.

Coronavirus symptoms include but are not limited to:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you exhibit any one of these symptoms or a combination of them, you must self-isolate immediately and get a test. See here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Stay at home if you have symptoms.

If you're getting a test because you have symptoms, you and anyone you live with must self-isolate until you get your result. This also applies to anyone in your support bubble (where someone who lives alone - or just with their children - can meet people from 1 other household).

You must also self-isolate if you cannot get a test.

If you test positive or you have symptoms and cannot get a test, follow the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Financial support is available for taxi and private hire drivers. See here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-taxis-and-phvs?utm_source=33056feb548-40e2-937d-87fea2a67ee7&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate#financial-help-for-phv-operators-and-taxi-intermediaries

We are aware that these are unprecedented times and it is not easy for the trade. However, public safety remains our number one priority. It is unacceptable to put your passengers at risk. We will have no choice other than to take swift action to stop someone driving if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

Russell Hawkins
Senior Licensing Officer
3rd December 2020