

Road Transport and Social Distancing

The Government have repeatedly stated if it is essential to attend work then you must observe social distancing where possible and follow the Government guidance. How do you apply this to Road Transport?

The purpose of the Government guidance is to stop or reduce the spread of highly contagious coronavirus (covid-19). If workers cannot work from home and are still required to attend their place of work, the employer still has a duty of care for the employees and anyone else who may be affected by the business.

What steps should you take?

The first step would be to review and update your risk assessment, with the hazard being biohazard coronavirus. The control measures will determine how you will reduce the spread and comply with the Government's guidance.

For some businesses it will be easy to work around such as a sole driver with minimal contact with other people. In this case the control measures could consist of:

- Providing hand sanitiser, disposable gloves, and anti-bacterial wipes for the driver.
- Requesting the drivers wash their hands for 20 seconds whenever possible instead of relying on hand sanitising.
- Keeping a minimum of two metres from other workers when loading, unloading, or requesting forms to be signed.
- Ensuring gloves are worn when refuelling or handling cash and then disposed of safely, and once removed hands are sanitised.

Other businesses may use different types of vehicles or have teams which travel and work together such as large item delivery vehicles which present further challenges. Again, this should be driven first by your risk assessment and then by the control measures you have implemented. In these circumstances it is clear it will be impossible to maintain the two metre rule so how can you reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus?

Consider the following, could any of these be introduced into your operation if the people traveling together are not from the same household? If so, make a note and include them in your control measures:

- Keep the number of people in the vehicle to a minimum and keep the driver and passengers as far apart as practical.
- Can extra vehicles be provided to reduce the number of passengers in each?
- Can start and finish times be staggered to provide social distancing?
- Can two journeys be made instead of one if it is a short distance to reduce passenger numbers?
- Open the vehicles windows to allow thorough ventilation.
- Keep your head turned away from other people, this is to try and avoid breathing in air they have expelled. If working as a team, work side by side or facing away from each other if possible.
- Everyone should wash or sanitise their hands on a regular basis such as before entering the vehicle and once they have left.
- Using standard cleaning products and wearing gloves wash the vehicle on a regular basis, paying special attention to door and grab handles, seat belts, steering wheel, switches, and buttons.



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