



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Advice for taxi and private hire licensees

We recognise that the taxi and private hire trades in London may have concerns regarding the possible implications of the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Wuhan, China.

HM Government and NHS public information provides useful advice on how to slow the spread of the virus. This is largely 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

The information can be viewed [here](#).

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 [here](#).

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.

Graham Robinson



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