

Notes from the staff Zoom call 26th August 2020

Times have changed:

Industries at greater risk include:

Schools/teaching

Aviation

Hospitality

Leisure

Retail

Public transport

Taxis

WCT

We must remain flexible in the work we undertake to ensure that we protect as many jobs as possible. It is our intention to retain all current positions, but we will need our staff's cooperation and support in order to achieve this.

What have we done and what are we doing?

New operating rules were introduced in May, these rules focused on hygiene of the vehicle and its occupants in order to help reduce risk. The rules were emailed to all staff and a copy of the rules will be placed in all vehicles over the coming days. Please adhere to them.

Hand sanitisers are in all vehicles, and we have disinfectant spray/wipes at Moorcroft for use on the vehicles. Vehicles which have a large turnover of occupants i.e. dial-a-ride and NEPT, can be deep cleaned once a week at our garage. Other vehicles will be deep cleaned periodically as and when they present at the garage. Staff are to wipe surfaces down, after completing each run.

We are testing Covid screens on our NEPT and Dial-a-ride vehicles. The screens are custom cut to fit on the Peugeot Boxer vehicles, and will separate the cab area from the passenger area.

For some school routes we are making available handheld temperature checkers, so that passengers can have their temperature tested before getting onto the vehicle. Hand sanitisers have been repositioned so that they can be used by passengers before boarding the vehicle.

PPE has already been made available including cloth face coverings with and without window inserts. Medical grade face covers, gloves, plus goggles and aprons for those who wish to wear them are also available.

For the office – a new face recognition system has been installed at the entrance and the old door combination lock removed. The system will confirm your identity and check your temperature, if both are correct, the door will automatically unlock allowing you access. This system will also allow

us to track and trace should any one staff member develop symptoms and subsequently test positive for Covid-19.

Routes

Surrey Choices

The vast majority of Surrey Choices routes have not returned, the routes which have returned may operate at different times, and will transport fewer passengers. If you were operating on a Surrey Choices route, and that route has returned, you will be informed of the operating times and pick-ups.

School routes

We had a number of school routes which expired this year, however, we have secured new routes to replace the ones which ended. As of the new school term we will be operating the following routes:

The Park School (three routes)

West Hill School

Woking High School

St Dominics

Carwarden School

Bramley Oak School

Jigsaw School

Freemantles (temporary route)

Treloars School Route

Walton-Lee school (14 routes)

Send Primary School

The majority of the school routes require a Passenger Assistant, and therefore, some of you may be asked to operate as an escort until other work returns.

NEPT (three vehicles to continue on this service at least until mid Sept)

Grassroots – to continue

Hubs – we are hoping to see a partial opening of the Hubs by the end of September, however, we are awaiting confirmation of this.

Dial-a-ride – free service commenced at the beginning of August. We will deploy as many vehicles as we can for this service. So far we have had up to 5 vehicles operating on dial-a-ride.

Woking Community Centres – partial opening of the centres by the end of September/beginning of October. Confirmation required. Timings of pick-up drop-off likely to change, until a full service is resumed.

Face coverings:

Exemptions

Children under the age of 11 are exempt and are not required to wear face coverings on any transport, and there is no legal requirement to wear a face covering on dedicated school transport, whether that is a bus or a taxi. A child over the age of 11 who is travelling on ordinary public transport will need to wear a face covering.

Reasons for not enforcing face covering on private transport include:

- The overall risk to children and young people of serious illness as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low.
- They do not mix with the general public on those journeys.
- Home to school transport often carries the same group of children and young people on a regular basis, and they may also be together in school or college.
- The predictability of home to school transport will allow for planning so that protective measures can be put in place.

Extra work over the next 4 months

Staff who would normally work week on/week off have been asked to work full-time until the end of the year. The extra hours/weeks are to be seen as working in-lieu of hours not worked over the last 5 months. The additional work should total a maximum of 6 weeks.