

COVID 19 Face Coverings Taxi News Special September 2020



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TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

New rules have been introduced for all taxi drivers and passengers to wear a face covering in a taxi. This came into force across England on Thursday 24 September 2020. It includes Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. If you fail to do so, you will be breaking the law and may be fined. The first offence is £200 unless it's paid within 14 days of issuing.

Social distancing during journey

Social distancing must be observed at all times and if possible, a 2-metre distance should be obtained. If a 2-meter distance cannot be obtained during the journey, please take extra precautions where possible.

Passengers exempt from facemasks

Some passengers could be exempt from wearing a face covering due to health, age or disability.

Passengers may have evidence to prove this but all transport staff including taxi drivers should not ordinarily ask for evidence for this.

Payments

We advise that you should use contactless payment where possible to do so but if you do handle cash, please ensure you wash / sanitise your hands after transaction.

Single passenger journeys

If there is only a single passenger, taxi drivers can ask the passenger to sit in the back behind the passenger seat.

Passengers need to inform the taxi operators if they need any additional measures put in place for their journey. Drivers and operators should also check whether any extra measures are required.

Cleanliness of vehicle and driver

After every journey, please ensure that all surfaces are wiped down.

Be careful not to touch your face before hand sanitising and to cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your elbow when coughing and sneezing.

Protective screens

A reminder to those who have or are purchasing a protective screen for your vehicle, please inform the Licensing Team so they can be inspected and signed off for health & safety reasons. Face coverings will still be required even if a screen is fitted.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

While working in these uncertain times, please ensure you stay safe and that you take all the above precautions. If you require any further information, please either email the Licensing Department on taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk or Licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk.