

NHS Patient Transport Fund

Overview

Grants for groups to provide patient transport to COVID-19 vaccination hubs in North Cumbria CCG area (i.e., for patients registered with a North Cumbria CCG GP).

Donor

North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (North Cumbria CCG)

Who can apply?

- voluntary and community organisations providing patient transport to COVID-19 vaccinations hubs in the North Cumbria CCG area, where the lack of public transport provision will make it difficult for patients to attend vaccinations delivered at locations that are not their registered practice.

What the Fund will support:

- volunteer transport costs at a mileage rate of 30 pence per mile
- PPE for volunteer drivers
- sanitiser to clean vehicles between journeys

Groups MUST comply with the following Fund conditions:

- ensure that the necessary risk assessments have been undertaken and that appropriate infection prevention and control measures are used (*see North Cumbria CCG guidance attached*); and
- confirm that they have the necessary safeguarding measures in place to protect vulnerable patients and volunteers; and
- confirm that all community transport vehicles and/or volunteer vehicles are adequately insured and maintained; and
- ensure volunteer drivers have appropriate licences; and
- confirm that patients requiring transport do not have access to a car or family support at the time of their appointment; and
- keep a record of patient journeys undertaken to inform North Cumbria CCG monitoring.

What the Fund will not support:

- non-charitable organisations
- statutory organisations
- individuals

How much can you apply for?

The maximum amount of an award will be £500. Applications for retrospective costs will be considered. Groups are eligible to reapply if required.

For more information, contact

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Protecting You and Protecting Others:

Infection prevention advice for volunteers and people helping family, friends and neighbours in their communities with transport for the COVID 19 vaccination

1. Introduction

Thank you for the support you are giving others during the COVID-19 outbreak. We want to ensure that you and others stay safe whilst you carry out this valuable role.

This guidance aims to provide you with advice on how to minimise the risk of catching or spreading the virus when providing transport in a private vehicle or minibus.

2. Before you volunteer or offer to help others

Before volunteering or helping family, friends and neighbours in your community, please remember:

You should NOT be leaving your house to volunteer or help others if:

- You have had symptoms of a high temperature, loss or change in taste and or loss of smell and/or a persistent new cough at any point in the past seven days

Or

- Anyone you live with has had a temperature, loss or change in taste and or loss of smell and/or persistent new cough within the past 14 days

If this is the case, you should stay at home, arrange a test, rest and follow the Government's COVID-19 self-isolating guidance, which can be found [here](#)

If you are well and able to provide support, please move on to section 3 for further considerations on how to protect yourself and others.

3. Before coming into contact with the person/household you are supporting, consider the following:

- Is the person or anyone in their household self-isolating (i.e. had a positive COVID test within the past 10 days)?
- Or, is the household isolating (i.e. is the household in the 14 day 'household-isolating' period)?

If the answer is '**Yes**' to either of these questions, we recommend you maintain social distancing, and do not enter the house or share a vehicle with the person.

If the answer is '**No**' to the questions above, it is appropriate to provide transport and follow section 4.

4. Further Information

4.1 Good hand and respiratory hygiene

Hand hygiene:

- Wash your hands regularly with liquid soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use paper towels to dry your hands. Dispose of paper towels in a bin or bag, tie the bag and place in a bin when convenient.
- If you do not have access to hand washing facilities (e.g. if you are in your car), it is recommended you carry a bottle of water (preferably warm), liquid soap, paper towels and a bag to dispose of used towels, so you can wash your hands remotely.
- Where there are no hand washing facilities, you can use hand sanitiser on clean hands to decontaminate them, this will need reapplied after each contamination. There is a build-up of residue so it is recommended after 5 applications, hand hygiene using soap and water should be carried out.
- Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unwashed hands

Further information on hand washing is available [here](#).

Respiratory hygiene:

- Carry tissues, so if you sneeze or cough, you can cover it. Dispose of used tissues immediately. If in a vehicle, carry a bag to put tissues in and dispose of the bag when able to. If tissues are not available, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or the inside of your elbow. Always carry out hand hygiene after coughing or sneezing.

4.2 Follow social distancing guidance

Wherever possible maintain a distance of 2 metres from people. In a vehicle sit the passenger in the back seat, in a minibus limit numbers so that passengers can be spaced appropriately (this will be determined following a risk assessment).

Passengers should face in the same direction not towards each other and in a vehicle on the left hand side away from the driver

Further social distancing guidance can be found [here](#).

4.3 Ventilate the vehicle where possible

Open windows where possible to allow fresh air to circulate in the vehicle you are in (check the person is able to maintain a comfortable body temperature and is not sat directly in a draught).

4.4 Minimise the time spent together in a shared space

Especially when sharing a vehicle or other small spaces.

4.5 Wipe down hard surfaces

Vehicles should have a through decontamination at the beginning and end of each day. A protocol for cleaning needs to be in place and communicated to all drivers.

If transporting a person in a vehicle or minibus, wipe down hard surfaces that the person may come into contact with between each person. The surfaces must be visibly clean, if this is not the case then use a household detergent first before using a disinfectant containing sodium hypochlorite which is known to kill all virus. Disinfectant should be diluted following the manufacturers guidelines.

All cleaning cloths need to be disposed of in a tied bag and in the waste once used.

4.6 Do not consume food and drink

4.7 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Face coverings should be worn at all times by both the driver and the passenger.

Most volunteers and people offering help to family, friends and neighbours will not require additional PPE. However in a small number of circumstances it is recommended.

When you are unable to maintain a 2 metre (3 step) distance from an individual in a vehicle, a risk assessment will need to be completed to assess the level of PPE required for example where there is hands-on care contact (contact within 2 metres), with a person to help them in/out of a vehicle.

This should be completed by the organisation you are providing transport on behalf of. This organisation is also responsible for providing any volunteers and paid staff with PPE (and this PPE should meet the required standards).

If volunteers and staff require PPE they should be trained in donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) any equipment. Videos are available to support training [here](#). Guidance is available [here](#)

If the person you are transporting can make their own way to the car and into and out of the car please wear a face covering and maintain a 2 metre distance.

If you need to assist the person from their home and/or into and out of the car please use the following PPE, remove after supporting people into the car and perform hand hygiene and renew when getting them out.

- Disposable apron
- Disposable gloves
- A face covering

The person you are transporting should wear a face covering too unless unable to do so.

N.B. Any PPE being worn should be renewed for each new household a volunteer comes into contact with.

Once the PPE has been removed it should be disposed of safely in a bin. Always wash your hands before and after donning/doffing PPE.

PPE should be replaced if damaged, soiled, uncomfortable or damp.