



Young Driver Covid-19 Precautions and Personal Protective Equipment

JULY 2020

INTRODUCTION

Young Driver, with the guidance of a medical consultant, has spent the lockdown risk assessing our sites and processes to ensure our procedures and personal protective equipment – known as PPE – is safe for our ADIs, hosts, team managers and customers. Our level of PPE exceeds the safety standards for driving test examiners currently recommended by the DVSA. If you haven't watched our customer video outlining the new precautions, please [CLICK HERE](#).

In that film we did say that we would sanitise the cars three times a day. Please note that we have upgraded that advice to sanitising the key controls between each lesson. How to do this is covered in one of the following films linked below.

All team managers have received PPE for their teams which will be provided to you on your first Young Driver event. But before we look at the PPE in detail, it is important to make you aware of the overall picture.

RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Young Driver believes it has taken all reasonable and practical steps to ensure that operations can commence again as safely as possible for all parties and in line with government advice. As you know, DVSA carried on performing driving tests for key workers throughout the pandemic and are starting up tests again in July. We are using higher grade personal protective equipment than they use.

However, as you will understand from the media and government, Covid-19 is a new disease and the way the pandemic will progress in the UK is still unknown. Consequently, government guidance may change over the coming weeks. We may, for example, see future localised lock downs. Young Driver will continue to carefully monitor this and take medical advice. As and when these situations arise, we will share this information with you along with any actions we need to take. We also expect all of our team members to follow government guidance, particularly if you, or a member of your household have symptoms of Covid-19.

These symptoms include:

- A temperature
- New or worsening cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Runny nose

Given that testing for Covid-19 is now readily available across the country, Instructors and hosts should have a test carried out if they have concerns about their own health or that of the people they live with. All of us should also follow any quarantine instructions made via NHS Track and Trace. If your test is positive or if NHS Track and Trace has called you and asked you to quarantine, then please let your team manager and Lisa at the Young Driver office know as soon as possible. (lisa@youngdriver.com)

By far the vast majority of people who catch Covid-19 recover quickly with minimal after effects. However, it has become apparent that in certain individuals the outcome could be more serious.

Risk factors for serious illness include

- Age over 50
- Male Sex
- Obesity
- Chronic chest disease e.g. COPD or severe asthma
- Cardiovascular disease e.g. hypertension or angina
- Diabetes.

This list is not exhaustive.

Despite the comprehensive precautions described below in this email, there remains a very small chance of infection occurring during a lesson. Consequently, if instructors or other staff feel that they have risk factors which place them at too great a risk of an adverse outcome, then they should ask for further advice from their GP about their working environment.

Government figures state that Covid-19 incidence has fallen a long way from its peak and that now around one person in 1,500 is estimated to have the virus. This means that if you average 8 driving lessons a day, the statistical probability of having an infected pupil in your car is once in every 187 days or 18 months of usual Young Driver working.

Experts claim the virus survives on surfaces for around 72 hours, so if your Young Driver car has not been used for three or more days, we've been advised that the interior surfaces will be virus-free. This also applies to your mask and visor.

PROCESS CHANGES

Our sites have social distancing signage, confirmation emails to customers have been updated to include new working practices and we've changed our pupil terms and conditions. Previously, if a pupil cancelled at the last minute, they'd lose their place, but now, if they show any virus symptoms – even as late as the day of the lesson - we'll allow them to rebook another date without any extra charge.

CHECK IN

Parents will be asked to confirm that no one in their household has virus symptoms and, if they have, we will ask them not to attend and to rebook. If they are already on site, we will ask them to leave the site and rebook their lesson. Team managers have been issued with contactless thermometers to check temperatures of any guest, ADI or host who might be concerned. We'll be greeting some guests in the car park to shorten queues and reception desks will be fitted with Perspex screens to protect hosts.

We've also created 'boarding areas' where pupils will enter the cars. You'll be given a laminated number to hold up and your pupil will have been given this number at check in so that they can find you and your car easily and quickly. All pupils have been told to wear a mask for their lesson - but if they don't bring one Young Driver will supply a surgical mask at check in.

PPE AND ANTI-BACTERIAL CLEANING

Every site has different risk assessment needs so team managers won't be giving lessons but making sure that our Covid-19 processes are strictly followed. Some sites won't be active because of space or toilet limitations and we'll only reopen these sites when they are completely safe. Every team manager, ADI and host will be issued with their own intensive care standard FP3 face masks, face visors or protective glasses. These are yours to keep but don't share them with anyone else. Each car will have one bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitiser and a packet of anti-bacterial wipes. Team Managers will carry spare stock of these. It's important that you and your pupil both sanitise your hands at the beginning of each lesson with an application roughly the size of a ten pence piece.

Anti-bacterial wipes should be used between every lesson to disinfect the steering wheel, gear knob, interior and exterior door handles, rear-view mirror, door mirror control, electric window switches, steering column stalks and seat belt buckles, seat adjusters and receivers. If a pupil has bought the video package don't forget to clean the SD card when you've removed it from the video camera and place it on the dash for the pupil to pick up.

PREPARING FOR LESSONS

Before you leave home for a Young Driver event, sanitise your hands. When you arrive at the venue, sanitise your hands again. If you're helping to set up, then sanitise your hands once more.

Before your first pupil – sanitise the steering wheel, gear knob, indicator stalks, mirror switches, door handles and other interior controls mentioned previously. You and your car are now ready for your first pupil. But before you start, you need to put on your protective equipment.

WEARING THE PPE

Before putting on your PPE clean your hands with hand sanitiser. Then take your mask by the straps and put the first strap behind one ear and the other behind your other ear. There's a metal strip at the top of the mask going over your nose. Pinch this over your nose to create a good seal. Make sure the mask covers your chin. Do not touch the mask except for by the straps and do not try to wash the mask or wipe it with disinfectant wipes, you could reduce its protective qualities.



[WATCH: Fitting a Face Mask](#)

Then put on the protective glasses or visor. If you wear glasses, put your own glasses on first, then put on the visor or protective glasses. To sanitise your visor or protective glasses, simply wipe them with a disinfectant wipe.



[WATCH: Fitting a Visor or Safety Goggles](#)

You should keep your mask and visor in a clean bag or box in the car, don't put them in your handbag or on the seat where it could be dirty.

While PPE in intensive care includes aprons and gloves, our medical consultant has advised us that these aren't necessary in driving lessons. Make sure though that you never shake hands or have any physical contact with the pupil, families, or other staff members during the day and, of course, maintain social distance when not in the car.

At the end of every lesson, do not fill in the Drive Diary, simply tell the pupil how well they have done and what to tell their next instructor they should be working on when they come again.

When the pupil leaves your car, use a disinfectant wipe to swipe the steering wheel, indicator stalks, gear knob, door handle and mirror. This takes about a minute and a half and ensures that the car is clean for the next pupil.



[WATCH: Sanitising the Car](#)

When you get out of the car to greet your next pupil, clean your hands again with hand sanitiser and pour some hand sanitiser into their hands so you can see that their hands are clean. Then commence the lesson.

It is a good idea to have a bag in the footwell in which you can put all of the used disinfectant wipes during the day. These need to be disposed of at the end of the day – simply tie the bag securely and put in the bin.

When you get home, you should have a shower and wash your dirty clothes at 40 degrees before wearing them again.

It does look a bit different to how we usually work, but these processes and PPE kit at least mean we can get back to work safely. As time goes on, these processes can be relaxed, and we can get back to a more normal lesson delivery. Young Driver is continually monitoring the situation and will let you know when things can change.