

This advice draws on national guidance regarding the current measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Guidance is updated frequently, the latest guidance can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/COVID-19>

England has moved to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant.

- [Get vaccinated](#) and get your [booster dose](#)
- Wear a face covering in most indoor public places, on public transport and when travelling in a private car with people from outside your household
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Including when travelling in a private car with people from outside your household
- [Get tested](#) and self-isolate if required

Guidance for fully vaccinated individuals who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or who have COVID-19 symptoms themselves is:

- Get a PCR test. [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Stay at home until you have the result of the PCR test and if the test is positive for at least the following 7 days.
- If your PCR test was positive, after isolating for six days you should take a Lateral Flow test, you should continue to isolate until you have negative Lateral Flow tests on consecutive days.
- If you live with someone who has symptoms and you remain well, you do not need to stay at home, but you should complete daily Lateral Flow tests.

Guidance for volunteer drivers

### 1. Positive test

If you have a positive Lateral Flow test you will need to withdraw from volunteering, get a confirmatory PCR test and follow the general guidance described above.

### 2. Hand-washing

Ensure that you follow excellent hygiene practices, including washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds before and after trips. If soap and water is not available, use a hand gel containing alcohol. We can supply a suitable hand gel for your use when on Link journeys.

### 3. Vaccination status

We are asking all clients about their vaccination status.

- a. If you have indicated that you are not willing to take clients who are not fully vaccinated, this will be taken into account when assigning jobs.

- b. If you have indicated that you are willing to take clients who are not fully vaccinated to their appointments, you will be advised of the status of unvaccinated clients when you are asked to take them to an appointment.

#### **4. Face coverings**

We are advising all clients that they should wear a face covering while travelling with Chippenham Link. If a client has exemption from wearing a mask, this should be accommodated. However, if they are going to wear a mask when they arrive at their medical appointment, they should be asked to wear it on the journey to and from the appointment too.

We can supply reusable or disposable masks for you to carry in the car in case a client forgets to bring their own

#### **5. Seating in a car**

Clients will be advised that we'd like them to travel in the rear of the car, sitting in the seat diagonally behind the driver. However, if you feel that the client will struggle to access the rear of your car, you may decide to let them sit in the front passenger seat.

#### **6. Plus 1's**

In line with the policies of the medical establishments that we take clients to, we are discouraging clients from taking a 'plus 1' to their appointment. In some circumstances, e.g. care home residents, people with physical or mental impairments, etc. it will be necessary to take another person along with the client. We are requesting that 'plus 1's' are from the same household or have completed a negative lateral flow test before the journey. You should have been told that a 'plus 1' will be travelling along with the client when the job was assigned to you.

#### **7. Ventilation**

You should maintain good ventilation in the car while travelling on Link journeys. Best practice advice is that you have two windows open slightly, these should be windows that are diagonally opposed to each other, e.g. the front passenger window and rear passenger window on the driver's side.

#### **8. Cleaning touch-points**

Please wipe down all touch-points, such as seat belts and door handles at the end of each trip.

We can provide anti-bacterial surface wipes suitable for this.