



Trafford VCSE PPE & Public Health Q&A FAQs

Thursday 2nd July 2020
VCSE Online Q&A Feedback

In attendance MS Therapy Centre, Cyril Flint Befrienders, Pure Insight, Trafford Domestic Abuse Service (TDAS), Home Instead, The Toy House, Indian Senior Citizen Centre, Stretford Public Hall (Culture Champions), Transport for Sick Children.

Q1: We work with a lot of residents aged 60 and over a lot of who are shielding, to enable our service to return to face-to-face visits what PPE do we need to protect volunteers and our service users?

Answer/s:

- Risk assess each individual visit/case.
- Risk assess and ensure volunteers have appropriate training around infection control and how to maintain good hygiene.
- Ensure that volunteers inform you of any Covid-19 symptoms they have and ask them to go and get tested for a Covid-19 test – Visit the Trafford Service Directory for more information on where to get tested:
<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/advice.page?id=AbLpBL5HBFE>
- Encourage visits to happen outside where possible maintaining a 2-metre distance between volunteer and service user at all time.
- The use of PPE should be limited as in most cases volunteers should not be having close physical contact with people outside their household.
- For inside visits make sure all surfaces and handles touched are cleaned with antibacterial wipes and disposed off safely in line with PPE [Government guidelines](#).

Q2: We work with physically vulnerable people can we Covid-19 test asymptomatic people and volunteers every week in our organisation?

- At the moment no, the tests are only for people with any of the following symptoms:
 - new cough or persistent dry cough
 - or/and high temperature,
 - or/and lose of taste or smell

Or if you live with someone with those symptoms.

However there will be new guidance coming out soon around testing for asymptomatic testing.

Q3: How do we dispose of PPE safely, what is the best way of disposing used PPE?

- disposal of PPE in a non-clinical settings- put all PPE into a black bin liner and tie securely (ideally with swan neck loop). Leave for 72 hours then dispose of with normal rubbish.

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Q4: Who is responsible for risk assessing the community building/ church? Does the responsibility lie with the community building management team or with the community groups using the rooms?

- Best practice would be for each community group to risk assess their own activities and the rooms in which they are using for their activities for volunteers and service users.
- We would also advise the community building/ church to carry out their own risk assessment too.

More details on risk assessing community facilities can be found on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

Q5: We have a transport service for people with life limiting illness, so clients are immunosuppressed. Our drivers are also in the main older people. Could you advise us on how we can safely offer these support services and what PPE would be required for drivers and passengers?

- There is some guidance on transport here:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0035-patient-transport-services-27-March-2020.pdf>
- In this document it sets out ways to keep individuals and drivers safe:
 - Temporary bulkheads in the form of heavy duty plastic sheeting
 - Regular daily cleaning of vehicles with chlorine solution
- As 2m distancing may be difficult in vehicles, clients being transported should wear a face covering

Q6: We also have support groups that rely on transport as well as befriending services which are all currently suspended and replaced with telephone support and online counselling. Again, what is the advice on safely running these services?

- The basic principles around infection control still apply
 - Meetings outside are safest. These can't be more than 6 people
 - 2 households can meet inside, but individuals must be 2m apart from each other. Being inside will increase the risk of transmission.
 - Hand hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of the virus
 - Cafes are open, but again only individuals from 2 households can meet indoors.
- Risk assessments should be done before resuming services

Q7: We support families and run play activities for children aged under 3, how do we safely clean all the toys/equipment used by children?

- Sand, soft toys and any toys that have smaller parts to clean are not advised to be used.
- Toys and equipment that can be easily cleaned after each use should be cleaned after each child.
- Small individual packs of toys could be provided for individual children to play with and cleaned after each use.

Q8: How do we safely manage to socially distance children aged 3 years and under

- Very difficult to get young children to socially distance. Priority should be on the following measures to reduce infection risk:

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- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend your setting
- Have staff clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- Minimise contact between groups where possible. This could be done by having much reduced numbers in the setting at any one time, have parents socially distanced; try and promote outside play as much as possible; if children are indoors try and keep cohorts of children together (for example if two households of children come on one day, then this group should come together on another day if possible)
- Names and phone numbers should be taken when people arrive at your setting, with clear and explicit advice that if anyone in the setting develops symptoms then they will be contacted and will need to self isolate
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)- this would only be if extended personal contact with a child was needed (e.g if they were unwell)

Q9: When is the antibody testing going to be available for residents?

- The antibody tests are currently only available for Health Care & Social Care workers
- Unclear when this will be rolled out elsewhere.
- A positive antibody test does not necessarily mean that you are immune to covid-19 so this test should be interpreted with caution

Q10: Are there stricter guidelines for BAME groups to follow due to the higher risk of contracting Covid-19?

- There is a BAME risk assessment available for employers to use which could also be used for Community purposes.

Q11: Can volunteer drivers for BAME groups get tested without symptoms?

- No, Covid-19 tests are currently only for people with any of the following Covid-19 symptoms:
 - new cough or persistent dry cough
 - or/and high temperature,
 - or/and lose of taste or smell
 - or live with someone with these symptoms

Q12: What is the number of people can meet up safely outside following social distance guidelines?

- A group of up to 6 people can meet outside safely following social distance guidelines.

Q13: When groups begin to meet for leisure activities what is the maximum number of participants who can meet, inside a building and socially distanced at 2 meters?

- Current guidance is that 2 households can meet indoors at one time, as long as strict social distancing and hand hygiene measures are being adhered to

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For advice on what you can and cannot do if you live, work or travel in areas of the north of England please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

To stay up to date on guidance and support available around Covid-19 visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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