

## Returning to driving lessons during the Coronavirus pandemic in the UK.

When starting or resuming our driving lessons during the coronavirus pandemic we must all continue to follow the government advice and take all precautions we can to remain safe and continue to enjoy driving lessons. See current Government advice at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support)

Please sign this document to confirm you have read it and are familiar with current Government advice. Also, that you consent to abide by it and recognise that we share the responsibility to take care and act to protect everyone we come into contact with during this COVID-19 pandemic. Copies of this page are available in the car to sign.

[Printed Name]

[Date Signed]

[Signature of client]

.....

.....

.....

..... [Signature of Peter Scott]

I have made variations in my normal T's&C's in line with this document. Please note:

1. **General infection risk:** Before every lesson I will ask you to confirm you do not have any symptoms of an illness that may be COVID-19 related. Using a non-contact temperature sensor, I will check both my own and your temperatures and I'll record these and all my other hygiene procedures on a daily checklist.
2. **Touch and handling risk:** At the start and end of every lesson I will clean down all the common touch points and hygienically decontaminate the seat fabric. If, during the driving lesson, any touch points become compromised, further clean down procedures will be done as soon as the vehicle can be parked safely. Both of us must use / re-use appropriate strength hand gel (65% alcohol or stronger) whenever necessary and may also wear hygienically cleaned gloves.
3. **Asymptomatic risk:** Today our PM said **"1 in 3 people could now be an asymptomatic risk."** Our society is at a stage, now, where more than 50% of the population have had at least their first COVID-19 vaccination offered. There will, therefore be an increasing risk that many people with some immunity may now carry the virus without personal symptoms (asymptomatic), putting others at greater risk of contracting the virus, especially those who have not yet had a vaccination. In order to address this, everyone is now all encouraged to **voluntarily take regular tests** – either at a drop-in centre or by taking lateral flow tests at home. Availability of these tests is being made easily available.
4. **Symptomatic risk:** If you or someone in your close group of family and friends (your 'bubble') believe you / they have symptoms, or any of you actually develop symptoms, you must self-isolate. Contact a medical professional for advice straight away and, if instructed to do so, take a diagnostic test – you must also notify me and cancel your lesson.

**Peter Scott, Director at Smart Driver Academy (v3.0 published 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021)**

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### Preparations before your driving lesson.

#### **On the day before your lesson, I will contact you:**

- I will ask if you have or have had symptoms of the virus within the last 7 days?
- I will ask if you've been with anyone else with symptoms in the last 14 days?
- I will ask you to confirm the results of any tests you've taken in the last 2 days?
- I will ask if you've been told by Government Track and Trace to self-isolate?
- If you have concerns with your health, we will cancel the lesson at no charge.
- I will ask you to confirm that you have paid for your lesson for it to go ahead.
- If you have any other 'normal' health condition such as hay fever, please tell me of your symptoms at this time and before meeting up for your lesson?

#### **On the day of your lesson:**

- Before travelling to you for your lesson, I will call / text you again to verify that you have **not had any new symptoms** of a virus within the last 24 hours?
- I will also ask if you to confirm if you have been in contact with anyone else now **showing new symptoms** of a virus within the last 24 hours?
- I will ask if you have received results of a positive test or have been told by Government Track and Trace to self-isolate?
- If you answer yes to any question your lesson will be cancelled (see policy)
- In final preparation, please will you also remember the following:
  - Thorough hand-washing immediately before and after your lesson
  - Bring **one bag** to carry all your belongings (including any hand bags)
  - Bring a suitable paper waste bag to store all your own PPE waste
  - Bring a hand gel, for your own use, which is at least 65% alcohol
  - Bring two face coverings (one spare), and wear one to get into the car
  - If you wish to use gloves, bring two pairs and wear one to get in the car
  - Bring your own pen, notepad and your mobile phone

#### **Meeting up to start your lesson:**

- Please wait outside the car for it to be prepared for you
- If raining, wait indoors until invited to come to the car (no umbrellas, please)
- Before you get into the car and in the following order:
  1. I will hygienically clean down all internal and external touch points
  2. Please confirm that you have just washed their hands thoroughly
  3. I will check both mine and your temperature with my electronic sensor
  4. Please apply your face covering before getting into the car
  5. Use your own hand sanitiser product before getting into the car

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### **During your driving lessons and driving tests:**

- Please remember at all times to try to avoid touching your face and hands
- Windows may be opened when possible to keep the environment ventilated
- Air conditioning will only be used with the fresh-air intake when it's necessary
- Short breaks may be taken outside the car when requested for our comfort
- If you need any additional breaks, find a safe place to park or ask me for help
- Your DVSA examiner will explain their procedures if different from my own
- I will not be able to accompany the test drive but may attend the test debrief
- It will not be possible for me to enter the test centre waiting room with you

### **Special consideration during your lessons:**

- If a situation arises where I have to intervene to take control temporarily, once the emergency is passed, we will park somewhere safe to re-sterilize the car
- We should try avoid directly facing one another when in discussion, it is safer to face forwards in the vehicle because we cannot keep good social distancing
- If I give a demonstration drive, I will re-sterilize the controls before and after the demonstration and we must swap our seat covers over and back

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

- Please ensure face coverings cover your mouth and nose at all times
- Face coverings must be used always when inside the car
- There are exemptions to wearing face coverings, but it is safer to wear one
- If you prefer to wear gloves, they must remain sanitised and on while driving
- You can re-sanitise gloves to wear again or dispose of them if not required
- Use sanitiser gels and sprays but remember they can be aggressive on skin
- It is essential you use sanitiser gels and sprays of 65% alcohol proof or more
- Sanitise your hands frequently, especially if you touch something new
- Antibacterial sprays and dry wipes are used to clean the car between lessons

### **Disposal of PPE and your waste:**

- Public Health England (PHE) household guidance on the disposal of waste that could be contaminated states you must separate from household waste
- Securely store the PPE waste into a disposable rubbish bag and seal it – you must then place this bag into another bag and then seal the second bag
- You must tie this second bag securely and keep it separate from your other household waste and not use the bags for any other purposes
- Double-bagged waste must be set aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual external household wheelie bin for non-recyclable waste

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### **Everyone needs to consider:**

- If you have any symptoms (firstly we must isolate and get a new test)
- If you or anyone in your families / contacts are in higher risk groups
- If you are or know of anyone close to you who is moderately at risk

If you have anyone in your circle of contacts who you must take into account consider if it is appropriate for you to take driving lessons. You are responsible for making your own assessment and taking your own decision and Smart Driver Academy cannot accept any responsibility for your decision if you wish to proceed and take lessons

### **The main symptoms of COVID 19 described by the government are:**

- a high temperature or feelings of being feverish – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous (usually dry and persistent) cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss of taste or smell
- other feelings of being unwell should be checked out too

### **What actions you should take if you feel unwell:**

- if you feel generally unwell, call your doctor or 111 for advice
- if you think you have coronavirus call 119 for advice about COVID-19
- cancel your driving lessons until you are certain that you are not unwell

### **Taking your driving test (subject to review and change):**

- DVSA examiner will explain their procedures
- I will not be able to accompany the test drive but may attend the test debrief
- It will not be possible for me to enter the test centre waiting room with you

### **Cancellation policy:**

Every cancellation will be considered on its own individual merits. I fully recognised that the decision for having to self-isolate may be imposed at very short notice either by a test result, contact by track-isolate-trace or an NHS App notification – please can you send me evidence of this for all charges to be waived. Cancellations otherwise are in line with my normal policy and will be charged at 50% if within 24 hours and full cost without any advance notice. There is no charge if cancellation notice is given more than 24 hours in advance.

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### **COVID-19 can make anyone seriously ill:**

All lessons will be of two hours for the foreseeable future. By doing this it's anticipated to reduce the statistical risks posed by the number of different daily contacts because the fewer daily contacts there are, the lower the risk is of passing on the virus.

It is very easy to inadvertently pass on / receive the virus by touch and aerosol particles without any symptoms (asymptomatic), or by having some symptoms (symptomatic), or feeling some exceptional and unusual symptoms.

People in high or moderate risk groups are described on the <https://gov.uk> and <https://nhs.uk> websites – if you would consider yourself to be in either of these groups or if one or more of your personal direct contacts may be, you should consider if it is an appropriate risk to learn to drive at this present time.

### Useful further links

**Further important advice is available at NHS, Public Health England or your GP. More [Government Coronavirus Information](#) can be found at the resources:**

- **GETTING A COVID-19 TEST** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **CARS:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#private-cars-and-other-vehicles>
- **CARS & FACECOVERINGS:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#private-https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#face-coveringscars-and-other-vehicles>
- **LATERAL FLOW TEST POSITIVE – What to do:** <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- **FACECOVERINGS:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>
- **FACECOVERINGS AND EXEMPTIONS:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#exemptioncards>

**Disclaimer:** The COVID-19 information provided herewith is issued in good faith as a guide. It is my interpretation of the best information at the time of writing and is based on UK Govt., NHS and Public Health England information sources. More and better information will be released as time passes and we must be ready to adapt with new information and changes as these are announced and implemented.

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