

Covid 19 pandemic: Workplace practical hints and tips

Reviewed 21 July 2021

1 CAR SHARING

In England many of the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted from the 19th July 2021, however workplaces must remain cautious as infection levels are high. For those who are attending the workplace the type of commute is an important consideration. Walking, cycling and use of cars by a single occupant are the safest in terms of limiting Covid transmission.

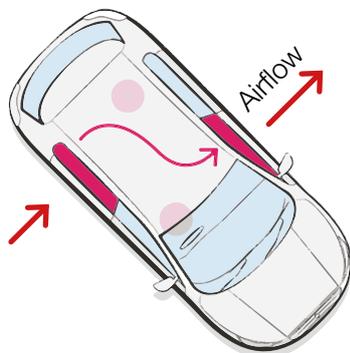
Car sharing presents higher risk of Covid transmission due to the small spaces involved and the length of journey times. While supporting workplaces in North Yorkshire throughout the pandemic, we have found car sharing to be key in spreading of Covid virus.

In order to reduce the risk, we therefore recommend that employers:

- Understand how employees travel to work e.g. car sharing, organised minibus, pool cars
- If car sharing is used, keep a record of who travels with who for speedy contact tracing purposes – if practical, monitor all cars on site
- Work with staff to limit car sharing to work bubbles if possible
- Communicate safer car sharing practice on a regular basis

Fresh air flow is crucial to reducing the risk of passing on coronavirus.

A recent study suggest it is better to **open the two windows opposite the driver and passenger**. Air is channelled across the back seat and out the front window.



Key hints and tips to reduce the risks of Covid to share with your employees:

- Wash or sanitize hands before and after each journey
- Wear a face covering and do not eat or smoke in cars
- Avoid physical contact and keep as much social distance as possible
- Ventilate the car by opening windows and/or switching ventilation systems on while people are in the vehicle (set to drawing fresh air in, not recirculating air)
- If possible limit the vehicle to 2 people – passenger to sit in rear seat on opposite side to driver and open the windows to improve ventilation
- Keep the time spent in the car as short as possible – perhaps part of the journey could be on foot or by bike?
- Share with the same small group (bubble) each time
- Clean contact points such as door handles and seat belts
- Speak Up to colleagues and supervisors about any issues

For more detailed guidelines, visit the government website at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/vehicles