

COVID-19 Vehicle Deep Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance

for Pennon, SWW, Viridor or PWS

Dated: 19 March 2020

In the absence of specific guidance from Public Health England (PHE) this guidance document has been produced to inform the cleaning of a Pennon vehicle where a possible or confirmed COVID-19 case has spent time while symptomatic. For the purposes of this guidance, a possible case of COVID-19 is someone with COVID-19 symptoms, and a confirmed case is someone known to have a positive laboratory test for COVID-19.

The guidance describes the cleaning required, the disinfection of the vehicle, the personal protective equipment (PPE) that should be worn and the appropriate disposal of materials.

The infection risk from environmental contamination will decrease over time, but it is still unclear at what point there is no risk of transmission from the environment; however, studies of SARS and MERS suggest that, in most circumstances, the risk on hard surfaces is likely to be reduced significantly after 72 hours.

Please note it is not possible to become infected with COVID-19 from touching a surface that has been contaminated – infection will only occur if the individual then touches their face or mouth without washing their hands.

Principles of Deep Cleaning and Disinfection of vehicles after the case has left the vehicle

Housekeeping and Vehicle Tidiness

All drivers should ensure that the vehicle is kept as tidy and clutter free as possible. As well as aiding the general hygiene of the vehicle this will assist the effectiveness of a deep clean should this be required. It would be good practise to regularly clean door handles, vehicle controls and hard surfaces with a disinfectant (see Toolbox Talk on vehicle general cleanliness)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In the absence of specific guidance from PHE, the minimum PPE required to be worn for deep cleaning and disinfection of a vehicle where a possible or confirmed case has been is informed by the same standards as publication 'COVID-19: decontamination in non-healthcare settings'. This includes; disposable gloves and an apron/coverall. Hands should be washed with soap and water after all PPE has been removed and disposed of as waste as outlined below.

If a dynamic risk assessment of the vehicle indicates that a higher level of contamination may be present or there is visible contamination with body fluids, then the need for additional PPE such as a surgical facemask and full-face visor should be considered. The local Health Protection Team can advise on this.

Quarantine of the Vehicle

Once identified the affected vehicle should be quarantined immediately and removed from service. The vehicle should be parked in a non-operational area well away from other operational assets and people. Upon receipt the vehicle keys should be thoroughly cleaned with an appropriate anti

bacterial cleaner to minimise any risk of cross contamination, any person handling such keys should always ensure that protective gloves are worn and that any such keys are isolated & not kept in generic 'key presses' where other vehicle keys are kept.

At this point Line Managers have a number of options to deep clean/disinfect the vehicle as follows:

Option 1: Quarantine of Vehicle for >72 Hours

If the vehicle can be quarantined for a minimum of 72 hour the amount of virus contamination will have decreased significantly. The vehicles internal hard surfaces can then be cleaned with normal household disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on the safe use of their cleaning products.

This is the preferred option and the rotation of other vehicles in the fleet or the use of hire vehicles, in line with company policy, should be considered to allow the vehicle to remain quarantined for sufficient time.

Option 2: Use of a 'Fogging' Product

If the vehicle is required to be back in service within 72 hours then a 'fogging' device should be used. The most readily available of which is the 'Vardar Total Release Foggers' a quantity of which have been procured by the Group Transport team and are being distributed within the business.

These have a high concentration and kill up to 99.999% of bacteria, fungi and viruses, including norovirus, Salmonella, E. Coli, Influenza, MRSA and much more. They leave behind no residue, only a fresh, non-overpowering lemon scent and can sanitise an area of up to 25 cubic meters in size.

Any use of Vardar Total Release Foggers should stringently follow the Vardar instructions for use, which are included with the product but the following points should be noted:

- Prior to attempting to use total release foggers on a potentially contaminated vehicle the vehicles door handles should be thoroughly wiped clean with with normal household disinfectant prior to opening vehicle doors.
- If a vehicle is fitted with exterior ancilliary controls these will need to be cleaned separately utilising a with normal household disinfectant.
- Any extraneous items should be removed from the cab area and the driver should ensure that he/she has a segregated container for keeping any used gloves, hand towels after washing hands etc until they can be correctly disposed of in accordance with the waste instructions below.
- In the case of Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV or van) where a fixed 'bulk head' has been fitted two separate 'foggers' will need to be used, one in the cab area and one in the rear load compartment to ensure that any tools which are carried are also cleaned.
- If an LCV is fitted with a 'roof vent' this will need to be blocked off prior to use of the fogger to ensure that the maximum benefit is derived from the process.

Option 3: Specialist Deep Cleaning Providers

In the event that the vehicle cannot be quarantined for 72 hours and a total release fogger cannot be used then the services of a specialist deep clean provider is required. This may be necessary in circumstances where the vehicle has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19).

A specialist contractor who has the necessary competence to undertake the deep cleaning and sanitisation of a heavily contaminated vehicle could be called upon to provide this service at any specified site.

Contact details of two of the leading specialists in this area are detailed below:

IC Solutions 24/7 Limited

Address: Centenary Business Centre, Hammonds Close, Attleborough Fields Ind Estate, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 6RY

Contact: Oliver Canty, CEO

Tel: 02476 347722

Rapid Response Decontamination Service (Out of Hours): 0787 583 4243

Web: www.icsolutions247.com

Email: oliver@icsolutions247.com

Ideal Response Limited

Address: Ideal House, Crismill Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3LY

Contact: Nicole Kelly, Business Development Representative

Tel: 01622 735 071

Web: www.idealresponse.co.uk

Email: nicole@idealgroupp.co.uk

Please be aware that a 'same day' response **cannot** be guaranteed and will be dictated by location and demand at the time. These services can be booked direct with the providers but payment will need to be made prior to the service being available.

Waste

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of vehicles where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths, tissues) should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage for 72 hours. Waste should NOT be left unsupervised awaiting collection. You should NOT put your waste in communal waste areas until the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

If the individual does have a test and the test is negative, this can be put in with the normal waste.

If the individual does have a test and it is positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste.

If storage for at least 72 hours is not appropriate, arrange for collection as Category B infectious waste by a specialist clinical waste contractor. They will place your bags in orange infectious healthcare waste bags for appropriate treatment.

These requests will be highlighted to Group Facilities who will maintain a register of cleaning contractors who have the capability to provide additional support.

Follow Up of Persons Involved in Environmental Decontamination

The names and contact details of those carrying out cleaning of a vehicle that a possible case has been in should be recorded by the person responsible for the vehicle and notified to:

- Viridor - Covid19@viridor.co.uk
- South West Water / Pennon / PWS / Source: Covid19@Pennon-group.co.uk

As part of the contact tracing process for a confirmed case, the local Health Protection Team will advise on arrangements for follow up required for 14 days after the cleaning process took place.

Cleaning Consumables and PPE Availability

Where it is necessary to procure cleaning consumables and/or PPE to deliver these enhanced cleaning routines you should use your normal procurement route (Greenham are the preferred supplier of SWW and Arco are the preferred supplier of Viridor).

The preferred suppliers contact details are as follows:

Arco Ltd

Supplier No. 025575
<https://www.arco.co.uk>
Customer Services Tel: 0330 390 2050
Email: customer.services@support.co.uk

Greenham Ltd

Supplier No. 0010102
<https://greenham.com>

The Arco Account Manager is Harry Easterbrook (07702 594726 harry.easterbrook@arco.co.uk).

The Greenham Account Manager is Kerrie Gorfin (01392 271770 / kerrie.gorfin@greenham.co.uk). If you have not used Greenham before you will need to contact the account manager to view contract pricing and to set up an account.

Stock availability is visible via the Arco and Greenham websites. If Arco or Greenhams do not have stock then second tier providers should be used (see HomeSafe website for details) and/or failing this then staff should purchase the necessary materials locally.