

Stations Tier 2 Health & Safety

March 2020



COVID-19

Tier 2 reps wrote to the company on the 13th of February asking to see a preparedness plan. It took more than three weeks to receive a response. This is simply not acceptable.

We know there are still many areas where hand gel and hand wipes have not been supplied and we know that any kind of enhanced cleaning regime has not been communicated to staff in any clear, detailed or helpful way.

Public Health England and the Department for Transport have made it clear that frequently touched objects and surfaces **must** be cleaned and disinfected.



You can read the full DfT advise here:

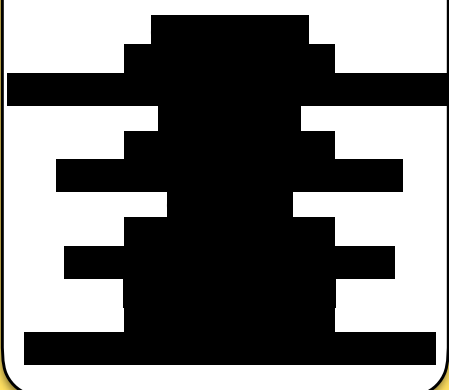


<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector>

Please spare a thought for station cleaners who are not directly employed by the company. Their already unmanageable workload is likely to increase significantly. It is not fair to simply palm the work off to them, without the right support measures being put in place. Let's never forget, we are an all grades union.



Tier 2 Reps



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Please look for advise about your health via the NHS website and Public Health England or by contacting your local GP/NHS service. Please don't let sensationalist headlines drag you in. If you have underlying medical conditions, let your local rep know if that's something you feel comfortable doing. If the company refuses reasonable requests for PNR's in order to wash your hands more thoroughly and more frequently, let us know immediately.

NHS website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Tier 2 are aware that TFL and the Mayor have announced ' a new cleaning regime' which in our view is light on detail and fails to provide operational staff with a clear idea of what is happening, what to do, and what to expect. The company need to provide details including but not limited to precise descriptions of what assets and infrastructure they are going to clean, how often they are going to do it and what chemicals they are going to use. **All staff must be advised of how the company are going to follow PHE/DfT advise about frequently touched objects and surfaces. For station staff this is particularly relevant for gatelines, ticket machines, lifts, escalators, mess facilities and radios.**

Please continue to raise your concerns with us and to your local reps. Our contact details are on the first page. If you're not sure who your local rep is, drop us an email and we will let you know.

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4.2 Taking necessary precautions

There is currently no vaccine for coronavirus but there are things you can do to help stop coronavirus spreading.

Public Health England (PHE) recommends that the following general cold and flu precautions are taken to help prevent people from catching and spreading COVID-19:

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away
- wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean



4.3 How long can the virus survive?

How long any respiratory virus survives will depend on a number of factors, for example:

- what surface the virus is on
- whether it is exposed to sunlight
- differences in temperature and humidity
- exposure to cleaning products

Under most circumstances, the amount of infectious virus on any contaminated surfaces is likely to have decreased significantly by 72 hours.

We know that similar viruses are transferred to and by people's hands. Therefore, regular hand hygiene and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will help to reduce the risk of infection.

3.1 How COVID-19 is caught and spread

Seasonal flu and coronavirus are both spread from person to person by close contact. Some examples of how it can be spread include:

- large droplets from coughing and or sneezing by an infected person within a short distance (usually one metre or less) of someone
- touching or shaking the hand of an infected person and then touching your mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands
- touching surfaces or objects (such as door handles) that have become contaminated with the virus and then touching your mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands

Advise taken from DfT's "COVID19: Guidance for staff in the transport sector" link provided on the first page of this newsletter

