

## May 2020 AHPD Newsletter

### AHPD Network comments and advice on the Covid19 crisis

Dear Age, Health and Professional Drivers' (AHPD) Network member,

We hope you are keeping well in this strange situation we find ourselves in. This email has two purposes both linked to the Covid19 crisis:

- (1) to share information the AHPD Network gathered about **how companies can help their professional drivers**
- (2) to invite you to be involved in a **research study looking at delivery patterns and workers**.

More details on these are below.

We are also sharing two articles we published calling for recognition and help to industry employees as key workers during the pandemic. The links below will take you to these, both are University of Manchester webpages and are safe to access.

<https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/news/transport-and-logistics-and-covid-19/>

<http://blog.policy.manchester.ac.uk/posts/2020/04/transport-and-logistics-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Best Wishes  
Sheena and Lynn

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Age, Health and professional Drivers' Network Website: Website [www.ambs.ac.uk/ahpdn](http://www.ambs.ac.uk/ahpdn)

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## **(1) AHPD Network guidance on helping professional drivers during the ongoing crisis**

*Professional drivers are key workers during the pandemic. The Age, Health and Professional Drivers' (AHPD) Network ([www.ambs.ac.uk/ahpdn](http://www.ambs.ac.uk/ahpdn)) contacted members to ask them what they have implemented to help protect their drivers. We know how busy you all are so we have created a short list of bullet points you might find interesting and helpful in your own response.*

*What do employers need to consider?*

Before the crisis health and wellbeing guidelines were produced by the AHPD network (freely available [here](#)). These are arguably more important than ever as the sector responds to the pandemic. In particular we recommend that employers:

\*Continue to adhere to existing guidelines in relation to physical health such as ensuring drivers do not work whilst tired and have adequate rest periods.

\*Implement, promote and adhere to guidelines linked to Covid-19 such as ensuring drivers have access to handwashing facilities, observe social distancing rules, and provide hand sanitiser, gloves and face masks to drivers. Some companies are taking additional measure such as:

- Cleaning and sanitising vehicles between uses.
- Issuing drivers with high vis vests with a printed message asking people to respect the two-meter rule
- Using medical questionnaires to identify vulnerable people more susceptible to the virus
- Stopping unnecessary double manning of vehicles
- Refunding the cost of PPE if drivers source it themselves
- Marking floors to help with adhering to social distancing (e.g. in loading bays or whilst debriefing)
- Asking drivers to stay in vehicles until their run is available to reduce numbers of drivers in one place at the same time

\*Place more importance on having good communication with drivers. Ensure they receive continued and updated guidance as the situation evolves and have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts and concerns with you. Drivers can easily feel isolated and cut off from other employees.

\*Place more emphasis on mental wellbeing support. This can include any support you already provide and also specific Covid-19 mental health support. For instance Mind has published Covid-19 related advice [here](#)

\*Recognise that with high numbers of older professional drivers this is likely to increase the risk factors of Covid-19 on the workforce

\*Consider providing bereavement support.

\*Keep in good contact with furloughed employees. They will still need the support of their employer in these uncertain times even though they are not in the workplace.

## (2) **Workers safety amid COVID-19**

You are invited to contribute to important research to develop the UK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and support businesses and workers.

Contributions will be collected online, and will take as little or as much time as you are able to spare. We are interested in data and/or verbal contributions relating to delivery patterns and strategies to protect delivery workers.

In return for contributing you (or those you nominate) will be able to benefit from occupational health advice and feedback on keeping your workers safe. There may also be opportunity for your company / organisation to feature in high profile research communications to boost corporate image, should you wish.

To express interest in contributing, **please contact Helen Beers ([helen.beers@hse.gov.uk](mailto:helen.beers@hse.gov.uk) or leave a phone message for her on 0771 267 6597** - please provide your name, contact details and position/role in your company or organisation). Helen will answer any questions you may have and can send you further information.

Please be assured that any participation is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw from the research at any time. An initial expression of interest does not commit you to participating.

This research is being undertaken by the University of Manchester, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and Public Health England (PHE).