
Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for hand car washes

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, hand car wash businesses must legally assess the risks from COVID-19, and take reasonable steps to protect workers and others such as customers. Following this guidance will help you keep everyone safe during this period. A good risk assessment will consider all the matters below and put in place a combination of different measures / practical steps to manage the risk.

General Information

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus is transmitted to persons primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. A person can also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth.

Any worker who is showing symptoms must not be at work, and must follow the government guidance.

The business needs to monitor the health of everyone working on the site and instruct workers to immediately notify someone in charge if anyone develops symptoms or needs to isolate due to someone in their household having symptoms.

The forecourt / car wash area

- Organise the work area so that you can keep workers and customers 2m apart, where possible by:
 - physically arranging different car wash tasks in different areas to keep workers 2m apart;
 - mark the areas using floor paint or heavy duty tape to help workers keep a 2m distance;
 - provide signage to remind everyone to keep a 2 m distance;
 - avoid tasks where workers have to work face-to-face, for example working side-by-side;
 - asking customers to stay inside vehicle at all times.

- Where a 2m physical distance cannot be kept, consider:
 - assigning one worker to that area for the task;
 - keeping the number of people working less than 2m apart to a minimum;
 - if the site operates shifts, assigning workers so that they are working in the same team, to limit social interaction;
 - taking payment via passenger window/door;
 - limiting the services available - wash/dry the exterior of vehicles only; no cleaning any inside sills; no interior valet services unless risk assessed and additional measures in place.

- Keep the work area clean and prevent transmission by touching contaminated surfaces. Consider:
 - regularly cleaning all shared work equipment that is used by different workers, especially surfaces that are hand contact points such as pressure hose contact points and brushes. Always clean the equipment at the end of each working day and between shift changeovers;
 - provide hand sanitiser for workers in the work area, if they are unable to wash their hands regularly.

Moving around

- Think about how workers use the forecourt / car wash area and how they travel through it. Consider:
 - permitting only essential travel on site work;
 - restricting the amount that staff rotate between jobs and equipment;
 - identifying busy areas on site and reduce the number of persons in such areas;
 - marking areas using floor paint or heavy duty tape to help staff keep a 2m distance.

Common areas

- Review how the common areas are used on site, including rest rooms, toilets, shower rooms and changing facilities. Consider:
 - physically moving furniture in rest rooms so that they are 2m apart;
 - staggering break times, and start and finish times so that staff are not using rest rooms, changing facilities etc. at the same time;
 - where this is not possible, creating additional space for people to take their breaks in or providing screens;
 - marking areas using floor paint or heavy duty tape to help people keep a 2 m distance;
 - using external areas for breaks if the locations are suitable and keeping a 2 m distance;
 - If there is a smoking area, having staggered smoke times and ensuring social distancing is maintained between smokers;
 - request workers to stay on site during working hours to limit any external interaction.
- Where a 2m physical distance cannot be kept, keep common areas clean and prevent transmission by touching contaminated surfaces. Consider:
 - frequently cleaning the common areas;
 - identifying objects and surfaces that are touched regularly and clean them more frequently;
 - setting clear standards for the use of common areas to make sure they are kept clean.

Good Hygiene

- Consider the following:
 - ensuring handwashing facilities have running warm water, soap and paper towels;
 - providing hand sanitiser in addition to hand washing facilities;
 - using posters to increase awareness of good handwashing technique;
 - ensure your workers wash their hands for at least 20 seconds when they come to work, before they leave work, and at work more frequently than normal, particularly after using the toilet, before and after eating;
 - providing hand sanitiser in multiple locations in addition to washrooms;
 - introduce contactless card payments.

Information and guidance

- Consider the following:
 - provide workers with information on the measures that have been introduced to work safely during Covid-19;
 - provide COVID-19 safety information to everyone on site. This could include displaying signs and notices about social distancing, instructions for customers to remain in vehicle, service availability such as no interior valeting, payment methods;
 - provide the information and guidance to any workers whose first language is not English and to others who may struggle with written and verbal communication;
 - using tannoy systems to regularly make safety announcements on site or deal with urgent site safety concerns;
 - have conversations with staff, listening to and acting on their concerns.

PPE (personal protective equipment)

- continue to use any PPE as normal;
- follow current guidelines on PPE - based on current scientific advice, the wearing of face masks is not advised in such workplaces for COVID-19;
- some workers may opt to wear face coverings, which will reduce the risk of that person spreading the virus to someone else. Remind workers to avoid touching their face or face covering, to avoid contamination. The face coverings need to be replaced regularly and if it becomes damp.

Further information

www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm

<http://www.hull.gov.uk/business/business-grants-and-funding/coronavirus-covid-19-information-businesses>