

Safer transport options after lockdown

July 2020



This short report is based on the experiences of staff in two different organisations, both of which are delivering Time to Shine projects. They are just starting to think about the way in which their organisations can help people to travel safely to activities which resume after lockdown. The plans are in the early stages as the main priority for both organisations is to reopen venues and restart face-to-face activities whilst following social distancing guidelines and advice in [the UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#). Information about Health for All's Covid-19 response to their minibus hire service has also been included in this learning briefing.

Concerns from partners about transport to activities post-lockdown:

- Transport was a barrier and key challenge before lockdown happened and the pandemic has made an already tricky topic much more difficult to address
 - The risks associated with using public transport if participants don't have their own car or can't walk to the venue or meeting point
 - The logistics of delivering activities locally to reduce the need for transport options
 - The need to consider (and risk assess) so many different things to reopen venues and re-start activities in a socially-distanced way that transport is a lesser priority
 - Understanding the current requirements and adapting as the requirements change
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Learning from Health For All's Community Transport Project:

The Community Transport Project minibus hire service restarted in mid- July 2020 with restricted measures. These changes include:

- All 16 seater minibuses now carry a maximum of 8 passengers unless passengers are from the same household
- The minibus arrives only a few minutes prior to departure to minimise the time that passengers spend on board
- Hand sanitiser is available and face-coverings must be worn
- Buses are boarded in reverse order starting from the rear seats and only people who live together may occupy adjacent seats
- The driver carries out the safety briefing process before commencing the journey
- Children must maintain a forward-facing position
- The driver's window and roof vents remain open and the driver wears a face covering
- Upon arrival, the driver exits first and will help passengers to maintain social distancing whilst disembarking. Passengers disembark in row order starting from the front
- Before commencing the next journey the driver disinfects and cleans touchpoints in the minibus. A more involved cleaning procedure is carried out daily.

Ideas from other organisations to supplement the government guidance:

- Consult with participants and volunteers to identify those who want to join face-to-face activities and those who don't (or can't), asking follow up questions about transport
- Prioritise transport provision based on individual needs, e.g. people using wheelchairs or walking aids, people who need support, people who can travel independently
- Consider car-sharing so that staff / volunteers can travel with another person in their bubble, ensuring that cleaning, ventilation and social distancing measures are in place
- Communicate regularly about public transport as the government guidance evolves
- Remove seats from minibuses
- Check insurance cover relating to Covid-19 for your venue, activities and transport

What are partners learning that can enable the longer-term recovery of our communities?

- Transport is a huge barrier for many people and partners need to carefully consider all options because safe, accessible transport is vital to help people resume social activities
- It's important for delivery partners to talk about transport issues with each other and share ideas and tips
- Communicating regularly with participants about transport helps to build confidence, as regular chats, reassurance, and sharing up-to-date information helps people to make informed decisions about their transport options and the ways in which their risk can be minimised
- Information about any new requirements or procedures needs to be clear and regularly repeated
- Creating transport 'bubbles' for participants, volunteers and staff may reduce the spread of Covid-19

