

Question

How can a person who is a close contact without their own transport safely travel to a COVID-19 testing centre? Are there any specific arrangements for students or healthcare workers? Can they use public transport, taxi or is there any arrangement with the ambulance centre to support this?

Answer

A person who is a close contact, without their own car, should ask one person that they live with to drive them to the testing centre. If the close contact does not live with anyone who has a car they should ask someone who they have been in close contact with very recently to drive them. They should follow the HSE guidance on how to safely travel in a car in such a circumstance. A person who is a close contact should not use public transport, this includes using a taxi service. There are no special arrangements in place for students or healthcare workers.

Details of answer

The HSE outlines (available [here](#)) how a close contact can travel safely in a car with somebody else. This advice states:

1. Wearing a face covering at all times and bin or wash it after you get home.
2. Washing hands before and after the journey.
3. Limiting the car's occupants - only the driver and the person or people being tested should be in the car.
4. Not making any unnecessary stops on the journey to and from the test centre.
5. After the journey, the inside of the car should be cleaned with warm water and disinfectant spray or detergent.
6. Avoiding touching surfaces within the car (but do put on your seatbelt).
7. Sitting in the back of the car, as much of a distance as possible away from the driver.
8. If possible, keeping a window in the car open.

9. Bringing tissues in case you need to use them. Remember to safely bin any used tissues at the test centre or at home.
10. Please note If you do not live with the driver, a time should be arranged for them to collect you. Ask them to wait in their car until you are ready. The driver should not enter your home unless you need assistance getting to the car. The driver should open and close your car door.

There is no information available for close contacts who have no access to a car at all. The HSE states that close contacts should not use public transport, this includes using a taxi service. Home testing is only possible for those individuals with a medical condition that prevents them from attending a test center.

The HSE Health Surveillance and Protection Centre document: *COVID-19 Guidance for Travellers* (available [here](#)) states that vulnerable individuals who are *symptomatic* and do not have their own transport should contact the testing centre. Transport will then be arranged by either a mobile team or through the National Ambulance Service. There is no similar guidance for students on placement or healthcare workers.

Conclusion

Given the above information, we recommend that a person who is a close contact without their own transport ask someone with whom they have been in close and recent contact (preferably living with) to drive them to the centre. They should follow the above protocol for keeping everyone safe while in the car. If there is no one they have been in close and recent contact with who can drive them to the tracing centre, we recommend they contact the centre to let them know of their situation and to enquire as to any local solutions the centre may have. .

References

The HSE website on COVID-19 was used to answer this question. This can be viewed here:

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

Disclaimer

This document has not been peer-reviewed; it should not replace individual clinical judgement. The views expressed in this document are not a substitute for professional medical advice. The content of this document is correct as of 10/11/2020

Rapid Evidence Search & Summary (RESS)

Our team of multidisciplinary researchers and clinicians in conjunction with the University of Limerick Library and Information Services have developed a detailed protocol for conducting a Rapid Evidence Search & Summary (RESS) to answer questions submitted to RapidInfo4U. Our RESS protocol uses PICO or PEO methods to refine your question and follows a detailed search procedure capturing guidance documents from governments, institutions and professional bodies; searching clinical and COVID specific repositories; and identifying the most recent reviews and RCTs in the scientific literature using established databases.