



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

**FIRE & RESCUE  
SERVICES  
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1. As indicated in the [Agreement](#) reached on 26 March this tripartite group meets on a weekly basis, or more frequently if required, to consider any newly suggested additional activities.
2. Today, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020, it was agreed to add three further areas of work to the Agreement:
  - Assisting in taking samples for Covid-19 antigen testing
  - Driving ambulance transport not on blue-lights (excluding known Covid-19 patients) to outpatient appointments or to receive urgent care
  - Driving Instruction by FRS driver trainers to deliver training for non-Service personnel to drive ambulances (not on blue-lights)
3. For the avoidance of doubt, paragraph 14 of the original Agreement is therefore now extended to include each of the following areas of work:
  - Ambulance Service assistance: Ambulance Driving and Patient/Ambulance personnel support limited to current competence (Not additional FRS First or Co-Responding)
  - Vulnerable persons – delivery of essential items
  - COVID-19 – Mass casualty (Movement of bodies)
  - Face Fitting for masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with Covid-19 patients
  - Delivery of PPE and other medical supplies to NHS and care facilities
  - Assisting in taking samples for Covid-19 antigen testing
  - Driving ambulance transport not on blue-lights (excluding known Covid-19 patients) to outpatient appointments or to receive urgent care
  - Driving Instruction by FRS driver trainers to deliver training for non-Service personnel to drive ambulances (not on blue-lights)
4. All three parties recognise that additional activities may have to rely upon personnel volunteering.
5. As with the initial three areas of additional work, the introduction of such work at local level is subject to the minimum safety requirements having been met as set out in paragraph 11 of the Agreement:
  - a. The activity is risk-assessed
  - b. Appropriate delivery and management of any additionally necessary training is in place
  - c. Appropriate delivery and management of any additionally necessary fit for purpose PPE is in place
  - d. Adequate management of the activity and firefighters is in place
6. For ease of reference, further clarification on points (a) to (c) was provided in TRI/03/20:
  - a. Identified control measures are in place following the full risk assessment

- b. Any additionally necessary training will have been provided
  - c. Any additionally necessary PPE will have been provided, including information and, where necessary training.
7. To assist local parties with the smooth implementation of these additional new activities, the Tripartite Group has identified the attached key points for consideration as part of the local discussions indicated in the Agreement.

## **APPENDIX**

As with all activities agreed through the tri-partite process, these additional three activities are temporary in that they only apply during the current health crisis.

### **Assisting in taking samples for Covid-19 antigen testing**

1. This will consist of:
  - a. Co-ordination and marshalling of sites, and/or
  - b. Taking samples
2. The testing will be for:
  - a. FRS staff and members of their households
  - b. Other individuals if required
3. All procedures will ensure that tasks being undertaken will be compliant with any regulations which dictate who can perform sampling and the clinical guidelines on how sampling must be carried out.
4. Because taking samples is quite invasive, personnel who come to the realisation during the training that they are not comfortable with the activity will be able to withdraw immediately by notifying the appropriate manager.

### **Driving ambulance transport not on blue-lights (excluding known Covid-19 patients) to outpatient appointments or to receive urgent care**

1. Personnel undertaking this activity should follow the guidance on social distancing where possible.
2. For activities requiring interaction with people where a distance of 2m CANNOT be maintained the following PPE will be provided:
  - Nitrile Gloves
  - Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) or higher
  - Fluid resistant coverall suit / Apron only
  - Eye protection

If practical a fluid resistant surgical face mask should be used on the patient/casualty to limit any spread of the virus
3. This activity will be undertaken in pairs, including mixed crewing with ambulance personnel.
4. FRS personnel will not be asked by the FRS or any other agency to transfer patients to or from 'Nightingale' hospitals.

5. FRS personnel will not be asked to undertake emergency transfers.
6. The purpose of this activity is to free up ambulances operated by and staffed by employees of by English Ambulance Trusts; Welsh Ambulance Service Trust; Scottish Ambulance Service and Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and not to undertake work that is ordinarily undertaken by other ambulance service providers.

**Driving Instruction by FRS driver trainers to deliver training for non-Service personnel to drive ambulances (not on blue-lights)**

It is recognised that the provision of driver training/testing by Grey Book driving trainers and instructors to other agencies is normally outside of role.