

# **COVID 19 - Patients Transfer and the Driving of South Yorkshire Ambulance Vehicles**

Only recognised and used operational in the below brigade/s:  
**South Yorkshire**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Our mission is to utilise inter-agency working to provide a humanitarian response to the unprecedented levels of patient transfers required due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The driving of South Yorkshire Ambulance Service (SYA) vehicles by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) personnel in exceptional circumstances. This is whereby clinical aid is not required but the provision for casualty transfer is required. Personnel may be required to assist NHS staff in the transfer process of patients from one hospital ward/location to that of another.

## **POWERS AND POLICY**

### **SYA Driving Policy and SYFR drivers**

SYA have included within their driving policy an agreement covering SYFR personnel with the appropriate licence category entitlement for the vehicle involved.

In exceptional circumstances SYFR employees with the appropriate current licence category entitlement for the vehicle involved may, at the request of a YAS/NHS employee, move a YAS vehicle and patient to a designated location.

### **Legal consequences**

- SYFR personnel are insured to drive any YAS vehicle.
- Fire service personnel seconded to YAS will be covered under their corporate insurance.
- Drive a YAS/NHS vehicle under emergency blue lights and sirens in convoy.
- The Highway Code MUST be adhered to.
- Under the Health and Safety at work etc. Act 1974 legislation, YAS will be responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all Fire Service personnel who are seconded to YAS, for the full duration of the secondment.

### **Service Policy**

- The transfer of patients utilising YAS/NHS vehicles will only be permitted under a joint service agreement which will have been formally agreed for a specified period and communicated to all personnel prior.
- Risk assessments will be carried out for all activities
- Volunteers will work within the working time directives 2003.
- Mental health and critical incident support will be available
- Fire Service personnel seconded to YAS will still be employed under their respective fire authorities, with the same terms and conditions.
- Clear guidance, policy and procedures will be available
- SYFR when transferring patients must be accompanied and supported by YAS/NHS staff

- Due to the weight classification of the vehicle, personnel must have a current C1 licence entitlement and other qualification as requested by YAS to drive standard patient transporter ambulances, the licence held should be reflective of the vehicles transmission manual or automatic.
- Personnel **must** have completed the one-day course provided by YAS covering the 3 specific designed modules –
  - Module 1 – Driving familiarisation
    - Vehicle capability and limitations
    - Cornering
    - Acceleration
    - Braking
  - Module 2 – Vehicle familiarisation
    - Use of tail lift
    - Use of vehicle ramp and winch
    - Use of Ferno Pegasus and Stryker stretcher
    - Medical gasses, checks and connections
    - Cleaning and Infection, prevention and control
    - Equipment location
    - Airwaves handset and mobile data terminal
    - Sat navigation
  - Module 3 – Critical care transfers
    - welfare facilities
    - access and egress
    - parking
    - contact numbers Critical care transfer case study
    - Expectations and myth busting – Q&A
    - Common risks and mitigation
    - Principles of handling and moving critical care patients
    - PPE and RPE hoods
- Personnel must keep all training records provided
- The recommended PPE will be provided and must be worn and discarded/cleaned as instructed by the YAS/NHS/Government
- SYFR individual personal issue hygiene packs must be available for use at all patient transfer incidents, personal issue Sundstrom P3 respirator mask and goggles to be taken.
- Personnel must take clean change of clothes to travel home from duties.
- SYFR Personnel on completion of volunteer roles must be tested by the NHS or self-isolate prior to return to fire service duties
- Fire Services volunteers can rescind their assistance with 7 days' notice.

## OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following should be considered when requested to move/drive a YAS/NHS vehicle:

- Consider the size of the vehicle and the licence entitlement required
- Make use of a banks person where the vehicle has to be reversed and where movement of the vehicle is restricted by hazards in the area

The following should be considered when transferring patients:

- Personnel to wear designated PPE provided by YAS and appropriate to the requirements of the patient transfer being undertaken
  - Mask
  - Apron
  - goggles
  - Full sleeved apron and hood (cat 3 patients only)
- Ensure personal issue hygiene packs are available for use as required and in addition to the PPE provided by YAS. Contents-

- 2 x spare T shirts
- bottle of water
- snack bars
- a number of blue gloves
- sanitary protection
- hand sanitiser, wipes
- 5 x pre-filters for respirators
- Yellow bio hazard bag with zip tie
- Red dissolvable decontamination bag
- Personnel should wear service uniform with ID unless instructed by YAS/NHS. Ensure a change of clothes to be taken to allow safe travel from duties. Used clothes to be placed in red dissolvable decontamination bag. Clothes should be washed-
  - separately from other household linen;
  - in a load not more than half the machine capacity;
  - at the maximum temperature the fabric can tolerate (ideally above 60 degrees), then ironed or tumbled-dried
- Patient confidentiality, dignity and respect maintained
- Use correct patient handling techniques as guided by YAS/NHS personnel
- Where appropriate and practicable, 2m distance to be maintained from all other members of the public
- Used/contaminated items to be disposed of in line with guidance of YAS/NHS personnel
- Maintain appropriate personal hygiene utilizing sanitizing wipes and recommended hand washing techniques.
- The on duty officer is available for contacting if volunteer requires assistance or feels they want to withdraw/exit from there volunteer role – Contact Fire control 01142532550 to request call back or on duty officers phone number.
- A SYFR welfare officer will be assigned to the volunteers
- Debrief and feedback to be communicated regularly and any issues highlighted from initial training or an operational context including PPE.
- Post hygiene upmost importance, washing of hands, hand sanitiser and showers.

## OPERATIONAL TACTICS

### Transferring Patients

- Transporting patients between hospitals.
- Assisting transfer of patients to and from the ambulance, using suitable equipment and manual handling skills under YAS/NHS direction.
- Assisting the paramedics, as directed in non-clinical support role
- Supporting YAS/NHS in ensuring your vehicle is road worthy, properly stocked with equipment and cleaned (paying particular attention to infection prevention) after every call.
- Carrying out basic scene safety checks and assessing the risk to yourself and others, in line with health and safety guidelines.
- Contacting the emergency control centre to request extra support when needed.
- Parking and leaving vehicles ready for the next shift to take.

### Road traffic collisions involving YAS/NHS vehicles

- If SYFR personnel are involved in a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) whilst driving a YAS vehicle they must:
  - Follow SYFR Accident procedures

### Additional Information



# When to use a **surgical face mask** or **FFP3 respirator**

When caring for patients with **suspected or confirmed COVID-19**, all healthcare workers need to – prior to any patient interaction – assess the infectious risk posed to themselves and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimise that risk.

When to use a surgical face mask	When to use an FFP3 respirator
<p><b>In cohorted area (but no patient contact)</b></p> <p><b>For example:</b> Cleaning the room, equipment cleaning, discharge patient room cleaning, etc</p> <p><b>PPE to be worn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical face mask (along with other designated PPE for cleaning)</li> </ul>	<p><b>When carrying out aerosol generating procedures (AGP) on a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19</b></p> <p><b>In high risk areas where AGPs are being conducted (eg: ICU)</b></p> <p><b>The AGP list is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intubation, extubation and related procedures such as manual ventilation and open suctioning</li> <li>• Tracheotomy/tracheostomy procedures (insertion/open suctioning/removal)</li> <li>• Bronchoscopy</li> <li>• Surgery and post-mortem procedures involving high-speed devices</li> <li>• Some dental procedures (such as high-speed drilling)</li> <li>• Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV) such as Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure ventilation (CPAP)</li> <li>• High-Frequency Oscillating Ventilation (HFOV)</li> <li>• High Flow Nasal Oxygen (HFNO), also called High Flow Nasal Cannula</li> <li>• Induction of sputum</li> </ul> <p><b>PPE to be worn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFP3 respirator</li> <li>• Long sleeved disposable gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Disposable eye protection</li> </ul> <p><b>Always fit check the respirator</b></p>
<p><b>Close patient contact (within one metre)</b></p> <p><b>For example:</b> Providing patient care, direct home care visit, diagnostic imaging, phlebotomy services, physiotherapy, etc</p> <p><b>PPE to be worn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical face mask</li> <li>• Apron</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (if risk of contamination of eyes by splashes or droplets)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>REMEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE should be put on and removed in an order that minimises the potential for self-contamination</li> <li>• The order for PPE removal is gloves, hand hygiene apron or gown, eye protection, hand hygiene, surgical face mask or FFP3 respirator, hand hygiene</li> </ul> <p>These images are for illustrative purposes only. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.</p>	

## Administration Section and Author Support

This section of the document will not be published and is intended to provide support to the author and assist in the administration and workflow of the document. For assistance in writing this document please contact the FRS Operational Guidance Department.

## Document Control

This section is used to monitor and track the changes to the document

Document Control & Workflow				
Document Title		OIN – Driving YAS vehicles		
Version	Date	Author	Document Status	Changes
0.1	02/04/2020	W. Pilkington	Initial Draft	
Review	2021			

This document is uncontrolled when printed. Ensure you have the most up to date version.

South Yorkshire  West Yorkshire  North Yorkshire  Humberside