



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

**FIRE & RESCUE  
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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, 23rd April 2020, it was agreed to add four further areas of work to the Agreement:
  - The assembly of single use face shields for the NHS and care work front line staff
  - Packing/Repacking food supplies for Vulnerable people
  - Known or suspected Covid-19 Patients: transfer to and from Nightingale hospitals under emergency response (blue light) or through non-emergency patient transfer (not on blue lights)
  - Non-Covid-19 Patients: Transfer to and from Nightingale hospitals under emergency response (blue light) or through non-emergency patient transfer (not on blue lights) – this includes recovering and recuperating patients no longer infected with Covid 19.
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)
  - The assembly of single use face shields for the NHS and care work front line staff
  - Packing/Repacking food supplies for Vulnerable people
  - Known or suspected Covid-19 Patients: transfer to and from Nightingale hospitals under emergency response (blue light) or through non-emergency patient transfer (not on blue lights)
  - Non-Covid-19 Patients: Transfer to and from Nightingale hospitals under emergency response (blue light) or through non-emergency patient transfer (not on blue lights) – this includes recovering and recuperating patients no longer infected with Covid 19.
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 four activities are temporary in that they only apply during the current health crisis.

### **The assembly of single use face shields for the NHS and care work front line staff.**

1. It is envisaged that this activity ideally will take place on FRS premises. But in any case, assembly should take place at a suitable location taking into account the need to ensure social distancing guidelines and other factors such as hygiene and appropriate working surfaces.
2. This activity will not be undertaken for profit-making organisations.

### **Packing/Repacking Food supplies for Vulnerable people**

1. The work will be carried out at a suitable location that allows social distancing and hygiene guidelines to be followed.
2. This activity will not be undertaken for profit-making organisations.

### **Known or suspected Covid-19 Patients: transfer to and from Nightingale hospitals under emergency response (blue light) or through non-emergency patient transfer (not on blue lights)**

1. It is recognised that social distancing guidelines must be maintained under these circumstances. For that reason where known or suspected C19 patients are being transferred there will be 2 clinical staff in order to minimise fire and rescue staff contact.
2. This will ensure that FRS personnel will not be required to provide any clinical or first-aid assistance to the patient. The ambulance/hospital clinicians, with or without the assistance of other clinicians, will be totally responsible for the management of the patient.

3. FRS activities will be confined to:
  - a. Driving the vehicle
  - b. Handling the stretcher to/from the vehicle to assist the clinical staff
4. PPE appropriate to the task will be provided and worn, including for known C19 patients, mask, eye protection, apron and gloves
5. For activities requiring interaction with people where a distance of 2m CANNOT be maintained the following PPE is required:
  - Nitrile Gloves
  - FFP3 mask
  - Fluid resistant coverall suit / long-sleeved apron
  - Eye protection, preferably a visor

The clinicians, if practical, should apply a fluid resistant surgical face mask to the patient/casualty (if tolerated) unless oxygen therapy is indicated to limit any spread of the virus.

6. The purpose of this activity is to free up ambulances operated by and staffed by employees of Ambulance Trusts and not to undertake work that is ordinarily undertaken by other ambulance service providers.

**Non-Covid-19 Patients: Transfer to and from Nightingale hospitals under emergency response (blue light) or through non-emergency patient transfer (not on blue lights) – this includes recovering and recuperating patients no longer infected with Covid 19.**

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
  - Eye protection, preferably a visor

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. The purpose of this activity is to free up ambulances operated by and staffed by employees of Ambulance Trusts and not to undertake work that is ordinarily undertaken by other ambulance service providers.