

## Health and Safety Toolbox Talk No: 144

### Bulk waste collection during Covid-19 Coronavirus



#### **This TBT should be used in conjunction with the Risk assessment RA COVID 19.6**

We are being asked that wherever possible, we observe the social distance rule and keep at least 2m apart from other people. However, obeying this rule is difficult or impossible for personnel who must work together in a vehicle that is being used for key services. Cleaning in most cases and maintaining services e.g. bulk waste collection are key in protecting our communities. And using only one operative may also jeopardise other safety factors e.g. heavy lifting.

If any member of the crew is displaying symptoms, however mild, that person should go home and self-isolate.

For additional guidance on vehicle sharing controls during the coronavirus pandemic, please refer to Toolbox Talk 143.

Whilst collecting bulk waste, our operatives will obviously need to handle more than one item on their rounds, and therefore touching many surfaces.

When collecting items, the following controls should be observed

- Bulk team drives to collection point 1.
- They put on a pair of disposable gloves.
- They then put on the rigger gloves over the top. This will allow them to pick up items and avoid cuts from sharp objects, in line with their risk assessments.
- Once they have loaded all the items from point 1, they take off the rigger gloves and put them carefully in a bucket or similar.
- They then take off the disposable gloves and put them in a plastic bag.
- They drive to point 2 and follow the same process.
- Do not touch the rigger gloves with bare hands
- Avoid touching your face at any time

If any operative has any issues with this activity, they should alert their manager



Face coverings should be considered by all members of staff in the vehicle, unless they are exempt from wearing one or if the wearing of a covering impedes a driver's vision or causes a distraction

### **COVID 19 update**

To help contain the virus, where an employer, in consultation with their employee, judges an employee can carry out their normal duties from home they should do so.

Public-sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work where necessary.

Anyone else who cannot work from home should go to their place of work.

The risk of transmission can be substantially reduced if [COVID-secure guidelines](#) are followed closely. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

Those classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) can go to work as long as the workplace is COVID-19 secure, but should carry on working from home wherever possible.

There is no limit to group size when you are meeting or gathering for work purposes, but workplaces should be set up to meet the COVID-secure guidelines.

You should continue to:

- follow social distancing rules
- travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make

Information on local COVID alert levels, including what they mean, why they are being introduced and what the different levels are, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

