

Freedom of Information request reference number: 7588.1

Date of response: 07/07/2023

Request:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide me with information (emailed to me) with regard to how your organization addressed above, dealt with certain matters during the Covid 19-Pandemic.

*Personnel refers to organizational employed personnel.

**Non-operational vehicles refers to non-blue light response vehicles owned or leased by the organization.

***Level of PPE - respiratory and/or eye protection and IMPORTANTLY the grade of PPE specified e.g. in the case of respiratory protection 'Workwear or FFP1 or FFP2 or FFP3 grade masks.

**** Operational vehicles refers to blue-light response vehicles owned or leased by the organization

In relation to personnel*, traveling within NON-operation vehicles**:

1. Were personnel prohibited from traveling together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic?
2. If so, during what date period had this prohibition taken effect?
3. Were personnel permitted to travel together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic?
4. If so, were personnel required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle?
5. If answer to Q4 is YES, during which date period had the PPE been required?
6. What level of PPE*** was specified for occupants traveling together in a vehicle?
7. Was the requirement to wear PPE, mandatory or advisory?

In relation to personnel*, traveling within OPERATIONAL vehicles****:

8. Were employees permitted to travel together in operational-vehicles****, (in particular Fire Engines) at any period during the Covid pandemic?
9. If so, were personnel required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle during any period within the Covid pandemic?
10. If answer to Q9 is YES - what level of PPE*** was specified for occupants within a vehicle?
11. Was the requirement to wear PPE mandatory or advisory?
12. In relation to Q9 above - during what date period had the PPE requirements been in place?

Response:

1. Were personnel prohibited from traveling together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic?

Further to your response, in accordance with LFB's *Vehicle Usage guidance*, the answer is no. However, personnel were advised where practical to reduce the number of people travelling in the same vehicle.

2. If so, during what date period had this prohibition taken effect?

This was during the pandemic. The guidance has now been suspended as of Friday 20 May 2022.

3. Were personnel permitted to travel together in a vehicle at any period during the Covid pandemic?

As stated in question 1, personnel were permitted to travel together but advised to reduce the number of people where practical.

4. If so, were personnel required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle?

Yes, LFB personnel were required to wear PPE.

5. If answer to Q4 is YES, during which date period had the PPE been required?

This was required from the beginning of the pandemic. The guidance (*Covid PPE aide memoire*) was provided on 6 May 2021. Further guidance, *Surgical Face masks – Covid19*, was also provided on 6 May 2021. Both the *Face Covering guidance* and *Vehicle Usage guidance* were both suspended from 20 May 2022.

6. What level of PPE* was specified for occupants traveling together in a vehicle?**

With reference to the Government guidance, *Hands, face, space*, LFB personnel were provided guidance to also use hand hygiene and wear a surgical mask. Two types of surgical masks were provided (Type I and Type IIR) and a Brigade issued face mask (navy blue cotton covering). A Type IIR mask was required when travelling in a vehicle and Nitrile gloves.

7. Was the requirement to wear PPE, mandatory or advisory?

Mandatory.

In relation to personnel*, traveling within OPERATIONAL vehicles**:**

8. Were employees permitted to travel together in operational-vehicles**, (in particular Fire Engines) at any period during the Covid pandemic?**

Same as question 1, advice was to reduce the number of people where practical.

9. If so, were personnel required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while traveling together in a vehicle during any period within the Covid pandemic?

Yes, please see the aide memoire below.

10. If answer to Q9 is YES - what level of PPE* was specified for occupants within a vehicle?**

11. Was the requirement to wear PPE mandatory or advisory?

Mandatory.
















12. In relation to Q9 above - during what date period had the PPE requirements been in place?

6 May 2021 to suspension of the guidance on 20 May 2022.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>

COVID PPE guidance aide-memoire

<p>Activities carrying out or assisting during medical procedures which may produce respiratory droplets (Aerosol Generating Procedures – AGP) e.g. CPR, Bariatric rescue, direct casualty care (If practical a Type IIR mask should be placed on the casualty)</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Structural Firefighting PPE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  2 pairs of Nitrile Gloves </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  P3 filter or BA set </div> </div>
<p>Activities <u>requiring</u> physical contact with people where 2m CANNOT be maintained e.g. ring removal</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Structural Firefighting PPE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  2 pairs of Nitrile Gloves </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Type IIR Surgical face mask </div> </div>
<p>Activities <u>not</u> requiring physical contact with people where 2m CANNOT be maintained with members of the public e.g. using a lift, HFSV, Fire Safety Inspection</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Structural mask Firefighting PPE </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Nitrile Gloves </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Type I face mask or face covering </div> </div>
<p>Where a crew member begins to display symptoms of COVID-19 whilst away from the fire station, e.g. at an incident or riding an appliance</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Nitrile Gloves </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Type IIR Surgical face mask </div> </div>
<p>Travelling via public transport system whilst on duty e.g. indirect standby, travelling to undertake a fire safety inspection, community safety activity</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Nitrile Gloves </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Type I face mask or face covering </div> </div>
<p>Activities that require close physical contact operationally with a colleague e.g. handling tools during rescue operations</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Firefighting helmet with visor lowered </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Type IIR Surgical face mask </div> </div>

Travelling in a fire appliance or other
Brigade vehicle with one or more
passengers



Type IIR
Surgical face mask