



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Public Health England
Thames Valley Health Protection
Team
PHE South East

www.gov.uk/phe

James Horseman
Company Director
Horseman Coaches Ltd

01 February 2020

Dear Mr Horseman,

Regarding: Questions about coach drivers not being required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

Public Health England experts are well-trained at assessing and mitigating risk. In managing the current situation, they are drawing on a wealth of experience, and implementing strategies that we have used in a number of emerging infections to reduce the risk to the public. This means our work focuses on identifying the areas where there is deemed to be a risk and putting measures in place to mitigate that risk.

In this case, all passengers from the flight were checked by medical staff on arrival into the UK and none displayed any symptoms of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The medics accompanying the groups travelled wearing PPE as a precaution in case anyone was taken ill on the journey; to enable them to respond immediately without having to put on PPE while in transit. No passengers became unwell on the journey.

As an additional precaution, seating arrangements ensured that the drivers were not in close contact with the passengers on the journey, which meant they were not at risk and did not require PPE. Close contact means being within two metres of an infected person for at least fifteen minutes. The measures we put in place to address this were to block off five rows at the front and boarding the drivers last.

The drivers do not pose a risk to public health as a result of driving these passengers to their accommodation and should go about their daily lives as normal.

No passengers developed any symptoms during the journey which means that no special measures are required in terms of cleaning of the coaches. The coach company should use

the cleaning protocol agreed with PHE before putting the coach back into action and people should have no concerns about using these vehicles.

Should you have any more specific questions, please get in touch with Public Health England's Thames Valley Health Protection Team whose contact details you can find here: <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

You can find the latest details and advice for the public here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Please feel free to share the contents of this letter with any of your staff, customers or members of the public if it is helpful to do so.

Yours sincerely

Susan Hopkins
Incident Director
Public Health England