**COVID-19 update**

**Information correct as of 4pm 19 June 2020**

**In this edition**

* A message from Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust Patient Transport Service (PTS)

**Attachments**

* none

All information provided in the COVID-19 bulletin is hosted online at <https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/rss/home/infections-and-microbiology/covid-19/>

**A message from Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust Patient Transport Service (PTS)**

Patients registered with a GP in North Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding or North Lincolnshire who are eligible for NHS-funded transport are now able to book their journeys in the same way they did prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 and we will ensure that transport is available to support the reintroduction of services delivered by healthcare providers.

As part of our response to COVID-19, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust are taking steps to ensure that our Patient Transport Service (PTS) is able to convey patients as safely as possible. We support social distancing measures by seating patients away from crews and from each other, asking patients to wear protective face masks and transporting only one patient in a vehicle at a time. Unfortunately, not all escorts will be eligible for transport and may be asked to meet the patient at the hospital.

However, these steps significantly reduce our capacity and limit our ability to provide transport for those most in need. Before requesting transport, please consider whether your patient could drive themselves or, in line with government guidance, travel with a friend, a close family member or someone from their household – these methods are the safest means of transport during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When patients contact YAS to book transport they will be asked a series of questions that we will use to establish whether they meet the eligibility criteria for NHS-funded transport set by the Department of Health and Social Care. The same questions will be asked if patients self-book or if a healthcare representative makes the booking on their behalf.

If you feel that PTS is the only option available, please call 0300 330 2000.

Please note: It is extremely important to cancel transport if it is no longer required. This is to ensure that we don’t make unnecessary journeys that could be used to transport other patients.