

## **Dos and Don'ts for Volunteer Drivers COVID-19**

8/4/2020

Volunteering to deliver food and medicine to vulnerable people is one of the four reasons that the UK government has allowed for people to travel outside their home.

There are a few things to bear in mind at all times when volunteering as a driver. Different organisations and coordinating bodies will also have specific requirements relating to their particular kinds of work.

### **Dos for all volunteer drivers:**

- Make sure you have a full (not provisional) driving licence and insurance.
- Observe hygiene routines to ensure you do not contaminate the car or vulnerable people.
- Make sure you wear gloves when in shops or pharmacies, when you have made a delivery wipe down your car interior and steering wheel and wash your hands for 20 seconds in soapy water.
- Advise the person you are delivering to wash the delivery packaging before storing or using anything.
- Ensure you respect social distancing in deliveries: put down the deliveries and receipts before you knock and step back 2 metres from the door before it is answered.
- Make sure that your vehicle is taxed: <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax>
- Check the MOT status of your vehicle: all vehicles with an MOT due on or after 30 March 2020 will have their MOT expiry date automatically extended by 6 months: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-cars-vans-and-motorcycles-due-from-30-march-2020>
- Ensure your vehicle is safe to drive ('roadworthy') at all times: <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-safe>

### **DON'TS for all volunteer drivers**

- Don't notify your insurance company or change your insurance if you are not taking passengers: more information can be found here: <https://www.abi.org.uk/news/news-articles/2020/03/information-for-volunteers-using-their-car-to-help-fight-coronavirus/>
- Don't linger too long: just check that the person has seen the deliveries and has carried them in before leaving.

### **Typical requirements: you should be asked to meet these requirements where relevant by groups/organisations that are coordinating volunteers:**

- Full driving licence – evidence of this will usually be required.
- Insurance – your vehicle must be insured and evidence of this will usually be required.
- Some organisations may only want to use drivers with a clean driving licence – i.e. with no points, or with a low number of points. Please do not be offended if you don't meet requirements – each organisation has their own procedures to safeguard the people they work with.

- Some organisations may also ask that you have held your licence for a certain period of time.
- Some organisations may only recruit volunteer drivers over a certain age. We encourage organisations to consider recruiting younger volunteers who have adequate driving experience.
- Drivers over the age of 70 will not be able to volunteer as they have been identified as an at risk group by the government.
- For some roles, you may be asked to lift heavy items so would need to be physically able to do so. If this is part of your volunteer role, the coordinating organisation should provide you with guidance about safe lifting and handling.
- Drivers delivering medicines for pharmacies will need a current DBS check.

### **DBS checks on volunteers**

Basic DBS checks for volunteers are free. If you don't have one already, this will need to be arranged by the coordinating organisation. The government has published guidance about [using DBS check effectively in response to Covid-19](#).

Voscur is here to support VCSE organisations. For support, advice and guidance, please contact us:

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