

# DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP CALDERDALE NEWSLETTER – 22-28 JUNE 2020

[www.disabilitypartnershipcalderdale.org](http://www.disabilitypartnershipcalderdale.org)

## WELCOME!

Welcome to Disability Partnership Calderdale's latest Newsletter. This week are looking at public transport with an FAQ on using buses and trains safely. There's also news of who will be prioritised for Coronavirus vaccines, once they are available.

We also look at Face Mask Exemptions: some people, including many who have disabilities, can't wear masks for various reasons. We have easy-to-print cards for you to print off and wear if you are affected. Plus, our free face-covering give away continues whilst stocks last. As ever, there's always lots more news, advice and information on our website – **[disabilitypartnershipcalderdale.org](http://disabilitypartnershipcalderdale.org)**

## COVID-19 Vaccine – Who Will Get It First?

The Government have published an independent report in which they outline interim advice on which groups should receive COVID-19 vaccination as a priority. Frontline health and social care workers are at increased personal risk of exposure to infection and of transmitting that infection to susceptible and vulnerable patients in health and social care settings, so they will be the highest priority for vaccination.



Current evidence strongly indicates that the risk of serious disease and death increases with age and is increased in those with a number of underlying health conditions. Therefore, after health and social care workers, it's likely that the prioritisation of vaccination will be on a mortality risk-based approach. This is roughly in line with the shielding and vulnerable groups with which we have become familiar.

## Calderdale Food Support

Calderdale Council continue to offer support for vulnerable people who are shielding. They are very keen to point out that they also providing assistance to anyone who has been removed from the shielded list who still needs food support. You can request support direct by calling 01422 392890.

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## West Yorkshire Public Transport FAQ



- **Do I need to wear a face covering?** Yes, all public transport users must wear a face covering when travelling on buses and trains with exemptions for the very young and those with disabilities or breathing difficulties.
- **Are you supplying face masks?** No, it is up to people using public transport to provide their own face covering.
- **How can I help?** Wash your hands before and after travel, to wear a face covering, carry hand sanitiser and to use contactless payments.
- **When is the best time for me to travel?** Buses in our towns and cities are running mostly as normal between 7am and 7pm weekdays and are currently busy throughout the day. A limited service is operating in the evening and at weekends. The capacity of buses is limited to meet social distancing and, if the bus becomes full, you may not be able to board. Trains are operating at least hourly on most routes however space is limited to meet social distancing.
- **If there is limited capacity will my bus or train become full?** It is possible that more people travelling will mean buses and trains may become full more often as operators adhere to social distancing guidelines. Drivers will be monitoring the number of people travelling on the bus and once the bus is full drivers will be unable to pick passengers up until someone gets off the vehicle.
- **If I am a wheelchair user, will I still be able to get on the bus with social distancing in place?** Operators are asking passengers to consider the travel needs of vulnerable passengers and those in a wheelchair and will do all they can to prioritise access to the wheelchair space for a wheelchair user.
- **Can I sit next to a member of my household on a bus or train?** Yes, in line with government guidelines, you only need to social distance from someone outside your household including on a bus or train.
- **Concessionary Travel Passes/Cash:** Senior, Blind or Disabled pass holders may use concessionary passes after 0930 Monday to Friday. Travel Passes can be ordered online at [wymetro.com](http://wymetro.com) - to allow time for people to renew their pass, users may continue to use an expired pass until 28 June. Operators are continuing to accept cash on buses; however, they are advising customers to buy tickets in advance or pay contactless.

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## Face Mask Exemption Cards

From 15 June 2020, it is the law that you must wear a face covering when travelling in England on a bus, coach, train, taxi or tram. However, some people don't have to wear a face covering including for health, age or equality reasons. You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a good reason not to, including:

- not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability or to take medication
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate
- to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others



If you can't wear a covering, there are a number easy-to-print cards available that help communicate to others why you are not wearing a mask – we've included examples on the final page of this newsletter!

## Face Coverings – Free to all Members

We've had a donation of cloth face coverings and packs of disposable masks and will send them out FREE to every Disability Partnership Calderdale member who wants one. If you would like one, please call us on 07716 122897 (answerphone).

## Sign Language Service

The Calderdale Sign Language service are continuing to adapt their services to the deaf community requirements, with services being delivered by face time calls with medical services and Council services. You can also text for help if phone calls are needed for new hearing aid batteries or prescriptions. Contact them on 07999516092.

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## CALDERDALE ADVICE & SUPPORT DIRECTORY

- **NHS:** for urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service – only call 111 if you're unable to get help online; for life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance. For day-to-day health issues, call your GP as normal.
- **Calderdale Council:** The council have a package to support the borough's most vulnerable residents. You can register for their help by calling 01422 392890.
- **Citizens' Advice:** Citizens' Advice provide advice and support on a wide range of financial and benefit issues -Tel: 0300 330 9048
- **Disability Support Calderdale:** helping disabled people with benefits and offering other financial advice: 07944 511 716
- **Samaritans:** call them free, day or night, 365 days a year on 116 123
- **Calderdale NHS Mental Health Helpline:** 0800 183 0558
- **West Yorkshire NHS mental health services helpline:** 01924 316830
- **The NHS's Volunteer Responders** can help a range of ways - please call 0808 196 3646 (8am to 8pm) - you should only get in touch if you are elderly, disabled or otherwise very vulnerable.
- **Childline:** national helpline for children and young people up to 19 years of age. Call freephone 0800 1111
- **Refuge:** Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline – for women and children against domestic violence: 0808 2000 247
- **SignHealth** - domestic abuse service support for deaf people in British Sign Language (BSL). WhatsApp or Facetime: 07970 350366. Tel: 020 3947 2601
- **Disability Partnership Calderdale** - Call our mobile number 07716122897 - email [info@disabilitypartnershipcalderdale.org](mailto:info@disabilitypartnershipcalderdale.org)

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**Cut-Out and Print** – please use these cards only if you need to. Wearing a face covering is an important way to stop the spread of the virus.

