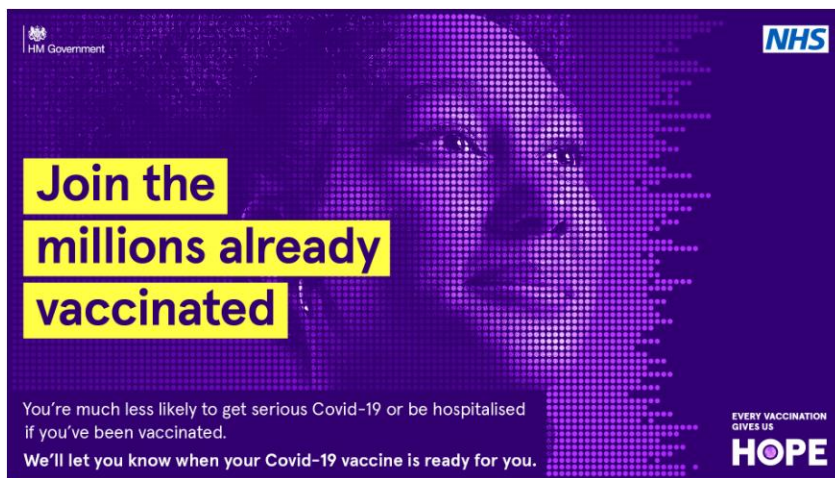


St Albans Licensing Newsletter

May 2021

Covid Vaccination



More and more people are now being invited to join the millions already vaccinated against Covid-19. If you visit the link below you will find the answers to the most commonly asked questions:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine>

Rapid Tests for Licensed Drivers

Rapid testing is available for all members of the public who are unable to work from home. This includes Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers. We want to make sure that all our licensed drivers are aware of this scheme.

This rapid test is for people who do not show symptoms.

Testing is free of charge and takes less than 5 minutes from arrival at the centre, and the results are received within 30 minutes of taking the test. There are sites across the county offering testing for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Appointments must be booked and this can be done by clicking on the following link;

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/coronavirus-tests.aspx#rapid>

We would suggest that drivers book a test regularly, if they are currently working.

You can also get free lateral flow tests, even if you have no symptoms, which you can do from home. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Covid Guidance

The government is constantly updating the guidance for licensed drivers. To see the most up to date guidance please visit the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-taxis-and-phvs>

Here you can find guidance on carrying passengers, Carrying out a COVID-19 risk assessment, and advice on keeping your vehicle clean before and after bookings.

Station Permits

We have been informed that some drivers are using Harpenden Station Taxi rank without a valid permit. In order to be able to use the station rank it is important that you hold a valid permit issued by the station. While the licensing authority are not responsible for the enforcement of this rank, we do consider it is not appropriate for drivers without valid permits to be there. Apcoa have been made aware of the situation and will look to do checks and enforcement when necessary. If you do not have a station permit and you wish to use the station rank please ensure you apply for a permit as soon as possible.

Deliveries

We are aware that there are a number of drivers who are currently working as delivery drivers for food courier companies. There is no issue with this as long as the correct insurance is held.

We would ask that drivers aim to not carry out bookings if they are currently carrying out a food delivery.

Application Forms

When applying to renew your licence please ensure you are using the most up to date application forms. The most recent forms have been made available from January 2021. If you submit your application with a previous form you may be asked to complete the newest version of the form.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licencing Policy

We would like to remind licence holders that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licencing Policy can be viewed the at the link below;

<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/licences-and-permits>

We ask all licence holders to familiarise themselves with this policy and the requirements within, as all licences issued from 27th January 2021 will need to comply with this policy, including licence requirements, the code of conduct and the updated conditions.