

## **Advice for Keeping Safe at a Virtual Car Boot Sale**

I have read all the currently available up-to-date and relevant UK government and WHO guidelines about minimising the risk of transmission of Covid 19. I have referenced these below. I have applied these to my advice which is therefore a combination of published guidelines, adaptations from closely related scenarios for which guidelines do exist eg food shopping and common sense where there are no guidelines or evidence. Minimising risk does not mean no risk and ultimately it is up to individuals to take responsibility for doing their best to avoid transmission of Covid 19.

### **Facts**

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease spreads primarily from person to person through small droplets expelled when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, or speaks. People can catch COVID-19 if they breathe in these droplets from a person infected with the virus. These droplets can land on objects and surfaces around the person and people can become infected by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. But the greatest risk is from inhaling the droplets, not from touch.

**Without doubt the most important ways to minimise the risk of transmission are to follow the Public Health England advice to:**

- 1. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from someone who is not a member of your household – social distancing**
- 2. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand rub.**

The WHO advise that the most important thing to know about coronavirus on surfaces is that they can easily be cleaned with common household disinfectants that will kill the virus. Studies have shown that the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to 72 hours on plastic, glass and stainless steel, less than 4 hours on copper and less than 24 hours on cardboard.

### **Specific Advice for collection of articles bought remotely**

1. The only risk to the purchaser comes from contact with the household of the vendor, provided the article has been the latter's possession for at least one week
2. The risk is minimal where those in the household of the vendor have no symptoms or history suggestive of Covid 19. We would expect those who do have such symptoms not to participate in any sale
3. There is a risk that infection might be developing but has not yet caused symptoms. Generally speaking this would only be a 24 hour window
4. The vendor should take reasonable steps to ensure that the article is in good condition and is clean
5. Once collection details have been agreed the article should be placed in a location where social distancing can be guaranteed e.g doorstep

6. The purchaser should retrieve the article, withdraw by 2m and then inform the vendor e.g by ringing doorbell or phoning. There is no need to wear gloves or other protective equipment as they can give a false sense of security and are at just as much risk of picking up or carrying infection as hands. Instead the advice is to avoid touching your face and to wash/ gel your hands thoroughly once the purchased article has been cleaned appropriately.
7. The purchaser is advised to clean the article on arrival home using standard household cleaning methods – hot, soapy water will usually suffice. Where cleaning is impossible it is recommended to store the article without touching for 3 days.
8. After every step hands should be washed thoroughly – this is the mainstay of prevention.
9. The risk from this scenario will be significantly less than shopping in a supermarket and overall is extremely low provided current government and WHO guidelines are followed.
10. It should be reassuring that there is currently no confirmed case of COVID-19 transmitted through food or food packaging.
11. This advice may be subject to change as new evidence or guidelines emerge but are written in good faith.

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Useful References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/cleaning>