

10.2 Using the most appropriate conveying resource

Suspected or confirmed SRI including SARS-CoV-2 cases must not be conveyed by rapid response vehicle, ambulance car services or third party taxis.

For vehicles where there is no closed bulkhead:

- all occupants of the vehicle that are not protected by a bulkhead are required to wear a surgical mask
- reinforce the requirement for patients to wear a surgical mask, providing it does not compromise their clinical care, such as when receiving oxygen therapy

The following guidance applies whenever a patient is conveyed:

- avoid opening cupboards and compartments unless essential, if equipment is likely to be required then remove from the cupboard prior to loading patient
- air conditioning or ventilation must be set to extract and not recirculate the air within the vehicle where possible
- essential escorts/carers/support workers should not be restricted from travelling with the patient where their support is necessary for the benefit of the patient (for example disabled patients)
- non-essential persons (such as observers, family members) are not to travel within the patient compartment with a suspected or confirmed case, unless the patient is a child who requires conveyance. In this case it is acceptable for a parent or guardian to accompany the child, however the parent/guardian must wear a surgical facemask (unless exempt)
- family members and relatives of these patients accompanying these patients may be restricted depending on the identified risk pathway for the patient. All visitors/patient escorts will be required to wear a facemask within the ambulance and should remain in the vehicle saloon

10.3 Use of aviation for transfer of SRI including SARS-CoV-2 patients

There are circumstances where it is appropriate for suspected and confirmed seasonal respiratory infection patients to be flown, for example during transfer by air ambulance. Organisations responsible for these operations should evaluate options and take measures to minimise risk of transmission from contact, droplet and airborne routes to attending medical staff and to aircrew.