

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR TAXI AND RIDESHARE DRIVERS

Last revised: November 18, 2020

This information is intended to help taxi and rideshare drivers reduce the risk of exposure to illnesses including COVID-19.

PROTECTING DRIVERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

SAFETY PLAN

It is recommended that your business create a COVID-19 safety plan to make the workplace safer for everyone. For more information on preparing your safety plan, please see provincial guidance called "[Develop your COVID-19 workplace safety plan](#)".

SCREENING

- Remind employees/drivers to stay at home and not come to work or drive their work vehicle if they are sick.
- It is strongly recommended that all employees/drivers complete a COVID-19 [self-assessment](#) before each work shift.
- Employees/drivers should stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms, seek testing, and self-isolate.
- Employers should maintain flexible policies that permit employees/drivers to stay home to care for a sick family member. During this time, employers should be aware that more employees may need to stay at home to care for sick children or other sick family members.

USE OF MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

- The use of non-medical masks or [face coverings](#) is required in all indoor public spaces as per provincial law and SMDHU public health direction. Owners/operators of taxis and rideshares must have policies in place to restrict people from entering if they are not wearing a non-medical mask or face covering. More information is available [here](#).
- Drivers shall also wear eye protection (e.g. face shields) in addition to a mask if they are required to come within 2 metres (6 feet) of a customer not wearing a face mask that properly covers their nose, mouth and chin and if not otherwise protected by a physical barrier such as Plexiglas.
- Post signs in a visible location that remind people to wear a face covering. Example signage can be found [here](#).

PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- Passengers should only travel in the same vehicle with people they live with.
- Minimize or eliminate shared rides so passengers are not travelling with individuals unknown to them.
- Ask passengers to sit in the back seat to maintain [physical distance](#).
- It is recommended that when there are four or more passengers that a larger vehicle with more seating, such as a mini-van, or multiple vehicles be used so that individuals do not sit next to the driver.
- If for physical reasons a person is unable to sit in the back seat they may sit in the front seat but both the driver and the passenger would need to wear a non-medical mask or face covering.
- Consider installing Plexiglas divider between the front and back seats.

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TRANSPORTING PASSENGERS TO A COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE OR HEALTHCARE FACILITY, OR ANY PERSON WHO IS SICK:

- If the passenger is being transported to or from an assessment centre, hospital or other healthcare setting, and/or is displaying respiratory symptoms, it is recommended they wear a mask or face covering if possible.
- Avoid using the recirculated air option for the car's ventilation during passenger transport; use the car's vents to bring in fresh outside air and/or lower the vehicle windows.
- Consider asking passengers to handle their own personal bags and belongings during pick-up and drop-off.
- Thoroughly [disinfect](#) vehicle regularly. See below for more information on cleaning and disinfection.

HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- [Wash your hands regularly](#) with soap and water for at least 15 seconds and have an [alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#) containing at least 60% alcohol available for drivers and passengers.
- When on the job, clean hands:
 - before and after work shifts;
 - before and after work breaks;
 - after handling passengers' personal belongings if unavoidable;
 - between rides and after handling/exchanging money;
 - after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings;
 - before wearing and after removing cold-weather gloves; and
 - before and after pumping gas.
- [Sneeze and cough](#) into your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROUTINE CLEANING AND DISINFECTING OF VEHICLES:

- Frequently touched surfaces are most likely to be contaminated. Examples of high-touch surfaces in vehicles include car door handles, arm rests, buttons for windows and locks, and seatbelts.
- In addition to routine cleaning, surfaces that have frequent contact with hands should be cleaned and disinfected at the following times:
 - At least twice per day;
 - When visibly dirty;
 - After transporting medical patients (e.g. to and from hospital and other healthcare settings); and
 - After transporting passengers who display respiratory symptoms (e.g. coughing, sneezing).
- Make sure that [environmental cleaning and disinfection](#) of vehicles is performed on a routine and consistent basis.
- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19.
- Use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada.
- Disinfectant wipes have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution. Disinfectant wipes should be discarded if they become dry and are not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces.
- Check the expiry date of products you use and always follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Employers/vehicle owners should provide all drivers with the appropriate cleaning products/disinfectant wipes for their vehicles.

Please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit if you have any questions at 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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REFERENCES

Toronto Public Health. (2020). 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) [Guidance for Taxi/Ride Share Employers, Drivers, Vehicle Owners Fact Sheet]. City of Toronto. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-guidelines-for-businesses-organizations/covid-19-guidance-taxis-ride-shares/>

Centre for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]. (2020). *Interim Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Public Health Ontario. (2020). *Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings*. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>