

## Recommendations for preventing COVID-19 in taxi, carpooling and ride share vehicles

### Actively encourage sick employees/drivers/passengers to stay home:

- All employers/employees/drivers should be aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and complete [COVID-19 screening tool](#) each day.
- Employees/drivers should stay home or be sent home immediately if they become ill while working.
- Passengers should stay home and not carpool if they have symptoms.

### What drivers and passengers can do to protect themselves:

- Hand hygiene: Drivers and passengers should wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer after handling money or providing assistance with a passenger's personal items.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers, tissues, and no-touch covered waste receptacles should be available for driver and passenger use in every vehicle. Ensure supplies are maintained.
- Consider placing signage for cough and sneeze etiquette and hand sanitizing in vehicles where the information can be seen by passengers (e.g. in a clear plastic sleeve).

### Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of vehicles:

- In addition to routine cleaning, high-touch surfaces in vehicles including car door handles, seat, arm rests, buttons for windows and locks, and seatbelts should be cleaned and disinfected at the following times:
  - at least once per day
  - when visibly dirty
  - after transporting medical patients (e.g. to and from hospital and other health care settings)
  - after transporting passengers who display respiratory symptoms (e.g. coughing, sneezing)

- 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.
- 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.

### Additional guidance and preventive measures:

- Choose walking and cycling as modes of transportation where possible as you can maintain better physical distancing than riding in a shared vehicle.
- Request that passengers sit in the back seat of vehicle to maintain physical distancing (diagonal from the driver).
- Minimize shared rides so passengers are not traveling with individuals unknown to them.
- Limit the number of different individuals you carpool with to reduce risk to exposures.
- Driver and passengers are required to wear a face mask in vehicles being used for business, and strongly recommended to wear a face mask when personal vehicle is being used.
- If possible, improve ventilation using the vehicle climate control system and opening windows.
- If the passenger is being transported to or from a hospital or other health care setting and/or is displaying respiratory symptoms, ensure the windows of the car are open and passenger is wearing a face mask.

## References

Commute Ontario. Guidance for carpooling. Accessed 2 February 2022.

Toronto Public Health. COVID-19 guidance for taxi and ride share vehicles. 20 January 2022.

Resource adapted with permission from Toronto Public Health.