



COVID-2019: Instructions for Drivers and Passengers in Non-Ambulance Transport Vehicles

April 17, 2020

AUDIENCE: Non-ambulance workers – such as taxi or ride share app drivers – as well as clients utilizing such services

POLICY/BACKGROUND: Based on Bay Area and California public health recommendations to reduce transmission of COVID-19, all people should cover their mouth and nose with a cloth covering or face mask when close to others. Both non-ambulance workers driving taxis or ride-share vehicles and their passengers (especially if experiencing any symptoms such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, muscle aches, or headache) should wear face masks or coverings during transportation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Non-ambulance drivers and passengers should always wear face coverings or barrier masks during passenger transport**
 - Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth and can be made from a variety of materials, such as bandanas, scarves, t-shirts, or towels
 - Always wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol before and after touching your face or face covering
 - Cloth face coverings should be washed frequently with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle
 - If using a surgical/barrier mask:
 - Avoid touching the inside of the mask. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the mask, you should:
 - Throw away the contaminated mask,
 - Perform hand hygiene as described above, and
 - Put on a new mask or face covering.
 - When not being worn, store used masks in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag. Stored masks should be clearly labeled with the user's name and should not be touching any other masks.
 - Masks may be re-used across shifts if they remain clean, dry, and undamaged. Discard your mask in a trash can and wash your hands immediately if it:
 - Becomes dirty or visibly soiled
 - Is hard to breathe through
 - Has overly stretched straps
 - Has a damaged face piece
 - Note that re-use of masks is only to be done during times of mask scarcity and/or as recommended by your unit/employer. The major drawback of this practice is that users often remove their masks by touching the facepiece, thus contaminating their hands. Remember that strict hand hygiene is essential when/if reusing masks.



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- 2. Passengers should sit in the back of the vehicle to maximize distance between driver and rider**
 - If feasible, driver and rider should be separated by at least 6 feet
 - 3. Vehicles should maintain good ventilation by keeping the windows open during rider transport**
 - 4. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as car door handles, seatbelts, steering wheels, rearview mirrors, etc.**
 - Review CDC guidance on [Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-emergency Transport Vehicles](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html), posted at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html> under “Disinfect Your Non-Emergency Vehicle.”
 - Use hospital-grade EPA-approved cleaning/disinfectant product effective against coronavirus (CDC List N) or with emerging viral pathogens claim.
 - Follow all manufacturer instructions for use of cleaning/disinfectant products, including the amount of time the disinfectant needs to stay wet on a surface in order to be effective