

Phase 1 Guidance

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19): Guidance for For-Hire Vehicle, Taxi, and Rideshare Vehicles

During Phase 1, the public and businesses will be required to adopt new behaviors and rigorous safeguards to reduce risk for all. **In Phase 1, non-essential shared transit continues to be discouraged.** If providing for-hire vehicle, taxi, and rideshare services, the following measures should be implemented to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission amongst employees, passengers, and the community. For additional information, see coronavirus.dc.gov/phaseone.

Considerations for Drivers/Employees

Practice Everyday Prevention Measures

- Wear cloth face coverings.
- Perform frequent hand hygiene (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub)
 - Before and after breaks and work shifts
 - After handling passengers' personal belongings, if unavoidable
 - Between rides and after handling/exchanging money
 - After putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings
 - Before and after pumping gas
- Carry tissues in your vehicle to use when you cough, sneeze, or touch your face. Throw used tissues in the trash and perform hand hygiene.
- **Do not drive a for-hire, taxi, or rideshare vehicle if you are sick. If you develop symptoms while working, immediately stop working and call your healthcare provider.**
- If passengers refuse to comply with safety measures, you may report this concern to management, your app rideshare company, and/or the authorities, as appropriate.
- If you feel uncomfortable with providing transport to a visibly sick passenger for safety reasons, you can choose to refuse transport. However, discrimination against passengers on the basis of race, national origin, or other reasons as described in your company's policies is not allowed.

Limit Contact

- Prohibit passengers from sitting in the front passenger seat by the driver.
- Limit number of passengers to 1 person, or to people from the same household.
- Consider use of a partition between the driver and passenger seats.
- Avoid close contact with passengers, when possible.
 - Keep a distance of at least 6 feet from passengers when outside the vehicle.
 - Consider asking passengers to handle their own personal bags and belongings during pick-up and drop-off. Perform hand hygiene if this is not 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 windows.
- Avoid offering items such as water bottles or magazines.
- Avoid contact with surfaces frequently touched by passengers or other drivers, such as door frames/handles, windows, seatbelt buckles, steering wheel, gearshift, signaling levers, and other vehicle parts before cleaning and disinfection.

Clean and Disinfect

- Carry disinfectant spray or disposable wipes and disposal trash bags in the vehicle.
- Follow the directions on the disinfectant product's label.

- If surfaces are visibly dirty, they should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- At a minimum, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle at the beginning and end of each shift, and between transporting passengers who are sick.
- Appropriate disinfectants for hard non-porous surfaces include:
 - EPA's list of disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2, which can be found at [epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2)
 - Diluted household bleach solutions prepared and used according to the manufacturers label for disinfection, if appropriate for the surface
 - Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol

Considerations for Passengers

Practice Everyday Prevention Measures

- Wear a cloth face covering while in the vehicle.
- Do not use a for-hire, taxi, or rideshare vehicle if ill, unless it is absolutely necessary, and do not use carpool options.
- Passengers should cover their mouth and nose with tissues if they cough or sneeze in the vehicle, perform hand hygiene, and dispose of the tissues after exiting the vehicle.
- Handle your own baggage and use contactless payment options when possible.

Considerations for Employers

Implement Measures to Support Employee and Passenger Safety

- Have strategies for accommodating ill or exposed employees (e.g., paid sick and family leave).
- Educate employees about COVID-19. Refer to [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://www.coronavirus.dc.gov) for more information.
- When possible, consider provision of hand sanitizer, cloth face coverings, and disinfectants for employees.
- Develop policies and technology options that allow and prioritize contactless transactions that limit or eliminate close contact and the sharing of items such as pens and electronic signature pads between drivers and passengers.

The guidelines above will continue to be updated as the outbreak evolves. Please visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://www.coronavirus.dc.gov) regularly for the most current information.