What's been updated: Required eye protection regardless of community transmission rate.

This guidance has been developed in alignment with CDC recommendations for ambulance transportation services.

Definitions:

- PUI: Participant Under Investigation. May be suspected based on symptoms, or be pending testing.
- Confirmed: COVID-19 test result is positive.

It is the responsibility of the Transportation Manager/Leader to notify a driver of any PUI or Confirmed Status of a Participant prior to scheduling transportation of that Participant.

When transporting Participants who are not identified as PUI or confirmed with COVID-19

- Participants are to be screened for symptoms prior to boarding the transport and will be screened for temperature upon arrival at the center.
- Drivers and Aides will wear a procedural mask at all times during pick-up and when Participants are on the vehicle.
  - In addition, eye protection (goggles or face shield) will be worn while assisting participants on or off the van, regardless of community transmission rates. Eye protection will be removed while driving the vehicle.
  - Refer to Incident Command for community transmission status.
- Drivers may choose to wear a cloth mask during work time when not in the vicinity of Participants.
- Participants will be asked to wear cloth masks during transportation.
- Participants who are not identified as PUI or confirmed COVID-19 must never ride in the van with a participant who is a PUI or confirmed COVID-19.

When transporting Participants who are identified as PUI or Confirmed COVID-19
Always adhere to state and/or local guidelines. Participants who are PUIs should never ride with other PUIs or Confirmed COVID-19. Participants who are confirmed COVID-19 should never ride with PUIs but may ride with other confirmed COVID-19 participants, if necessary. Situations may include:

- Transporting a Participant to a COVID-19 testing center
- Transporting a Participant from a nursing home or hospital – if identified as a PUI based on the Discharge to PACE guidance
- Transporting a PUI/Confirmed Participant to Dialysis

**PPE Guidance**

- The PUI/Confirmed Participant will wear a procedural mask, if they can tolerate it.
- While assisting Participant on or off the vehicle or providing direct care - Drivers and Aides will wear full PPE: procedural mask, a pair of gloves, gown, re-usable face shield/goggles.
  - PPE kits will be provided for drivers to carry on the vans.
  - Each van will be equipped with a bin for disposal of used gloves, soiled masks and/or disposable gowns.
  - Each van will be equipped with disinfecting supplies and storage for re-usable PPE: disinfecting spray/cloths (or disposable wipes).
- After Participants are onboard:
  - Driver will return to the driver’s seat and
    - perform hand hygiene
    - remove gloves and discard
    - perform hand hygiene again
    - remove face shield/goggles and disinfect it per the procedures in the PPE Guidebook
    - perform hand hygiene once more after removing face shield/goggles
    - The procedural mask and gown should NOT be removed during transportation. (*The front/outer part of the mask and gown should not be touched at any time*)
    - The Aide will remain in their PPE for the duration of the drive.
    - Perform hand hygiene over gloves and avoid touching the face
- If reusable gowns are available, these can be utilized by transportation teams and returned to the Center for laundering.
- If there is a shortage of gowns, Drivers may wear mask, gloves and eye protection only and gowns should be prioritized for any situations where there is high participant contact, such as a need to transfer to and from a wheelchair.

- During transportation, vehicle ventilation should be on non-circulated mode to maximize air changes that reduce potentially infectious particles in the vehicle. Open the outside air vents in the driver area.
- When the transport arrives at the center, the driver dons PPE prior to assisting the participant off of the van.
- After transportation, and for the duration of transferring the Participant into the facility and cleaning the vehicle, leave the vehicle doors open (weather permitting).
- Clean and disinfect the vehicle after final drop-off of the Participant and before picking up the next Participant, in accordance with standard operating procedures.
  - All high-touch surfaces, including those in the driver’s cab, are to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using the EPA-registered disinfectant in accordance with the product label. (appropriate product will be provided)
- Maintain a cleaning log
  - See the PPE Guidebook for instructions on disinfecting PPE.

Reference