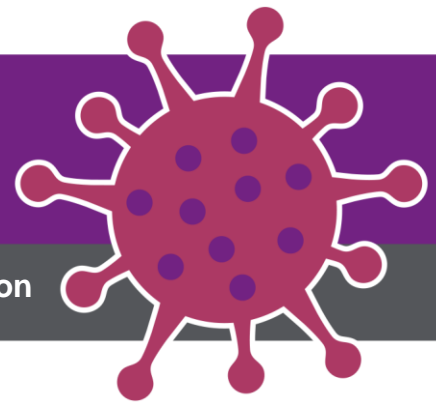


CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Ministry Sponsored Patient/Resident/Participant Vehicle Transportation



Audience: Transportation Services Colleagues, Security & Reception Leaders

Revision Date: 5/26/23

Version: #4

COVID-19 Response Team Owner: Clinical and Operations

Date of last review: 1/29/2024

UNIVERSAL: This guide should be used for all COVID patients regardless of Ministry COVID Levels

Follow any local, state or federal applicable laws, rules, and regulations that apply to COVID-19 testing that are more stringent.

What's been updated: No new updates.

General Issues:

- It is the responsibility of the Transportation Manager/Ministry Leader or Designee to notify a driver of any PUI or person with acute COVID-19 prior to scheduling transportation of that person
- Assure colleagues are aware of precautions and work practices in this guide noting these are for safety of all in vehicles and that there may be an impact of these on transportation schedules for passengers.

Routine Precautions for Transportation Services:

- Infection Prevention & Control Practices:
 - Passengers and colleagues (including drivers, aides) will be required to wear a well-fitting facemask for source control while inside the transportation vehicle when the Community COVID-19 Hospital Admission level in the county in which the ministry is located is high.
 - Note: Use of facemask or face covering for source control in vehicles used specifically for Independent Living communities is optional as these are not classified as a healthcare setting
 - Passengers should be screened for symptoms or close contact exposure prior to entering a vehicle.
 - Monitor and adjust maximum capacity of passengers when community transmission rate is high to decrease crowding.
 - Disposable gloves will be available to the drivers and aides to prevent need for direct contact with blood/body fluids and for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces that are visibly soiled.
 - Passengers standing while the vehicle is moving is not permitted.

- Transportation drivers must disinfect high-touch surfaces in the vehicle, e.g. handles, tops of seating, overhead handrails, etc., at least once per day and whenever visibly soiled.
 - Each bus will have disinfectant wipes that contain an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant from the EPA's "List N", disinfectants effective against COVID-19, and used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions for use. Maintain a vehicle disinfection log as well.
- Additional PPE when community COVID 19 Hospital Admission Level is HIGH:
 - Provide eye protection (goggles or face shield) to colleagues and indicate this is recommended when community transmission rate is high but is not required. It can be worn if direct assistance of patients or other riders is needed during boarding or unloading however it is to be removed by the colleague operating the vehicle as it may interfere with vision while driving.

Transport of Persons who are identified as PUI or Confirmed COVID-19

Avoid transporting persons who are PUIs with other persons if possible. Persons who have acute, confirmed COVID-19 can be transported with others who also have confirmed COVID-19.

- The PUI / person with acute COVID-19, will be asked to wear a procedure mask while in the vehicle.
- While assisting PUI or person with acute COVID-19 on or off the vehicle or providing direct care - Drivers and Aides will wear full PPE as described in [ppe-guide-booklet.pdf \(trinity-health.org\)](https://www.trinity-health.org/ppe-guide-booklet.pdf): N95 respirator or equivalent, , eye protection, gloves and gown (if available)
 - PPE kits will be provided for drivers to carry on the vans.
 - Each van or other transportation vehicle will be equipped with a bin for disposal of used gloves, soiled masks and/or disposable gowns.
 - Each van or other transportation vehicle will be equipped with disinfecting supplies and storage for reusable PPE: disinfecting spray/cloths (or disposable wipes).
 - Drivers and aides should clean hands following standard precautions and wear a procedure mask at all times during transport of PUI or persons with acute COVID-19.
 - 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 likelihood of direct 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 any additional applicable PPE when community transmission rate is high prior to assisting the passenger off of the transport vehicle.
- After transportation, and for the duration of transferring the passenger into the receiving facility or location and cleaning the vehicle, leave the vehicle doors open (weather permitting).
- Clean and disinfect the vehicle after final drop-off of the passenger and before picking up the next passenger, in accordance with standard operating procedures.