



PEF OSH FACTSHEET

VEHICLE SAFETY AND COVID-19



Cleaning, Disinfection, and Safe Operation

PEF members whose job duties may involve driving with a partner or transporting inmates, patients, clients, parolees etc., may be at additional risk for COVID while doing so. In addition to making sure the vehicle is cleaned and sanitized before and after each use, there are additional measures PEF members may take to safeguard themselves and their vehicle from COVID exposure.

TRANSPORTING INDIVIDUALS

- If transporting individuals known or suspected to have COVID-19, the agency is to provide PEF members with a N95 respirator and eye protection. If a N95 is not available, CDC also recommends a facemask and eye protection. Eye protection should not create a driving hazard.
- If transporting individuals without or not suspected of having COVID-19, the agency is to provide PEF members with a facemask.
- All passengers are to wear a facemask, over their nose and mouth. Agency should provide spare masks to give to passengers who do not have one.
- Sit as far apart as possible, if available, use a van to allow for more social distancing.
 - For example, have the passenger sit in the back seat on the other side of the vehicle from the driver
- If possible, install temporary barriers in the car
- Practice frequent hand hygiene and avoid touching your face. Ensure your agency is providing alcohol based hand sanitizer to use while in the vehicle.
- Ride with windows open, do not recirculate air, and use vents to bring in outside air (agency transfer policy and weather permitting).

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING VEHICLES

- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces in the vehicle at the beginning and end of each shift and between passengers. (Have a supply of plastic bags for garbage, paper towels, gloves, and disinfectant in each vehicle)
- Clean hard non-porous surfaces with soap and water or detergent if visibly dirty. Cleaning does not eliminate the coronavirus, only disinfection does.
- For soft or porous surfaces such as fabric seats, remove any visible contamination, if present, and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
- Disinfect with a product from the EPA's [List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) suitable for the appropriate surface.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions to ensure products are used effectively and safely.
- The agency should provide alcohol based wipes to use throughout the day.

- Wear disposable gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.
- Keep vehicle doors and windows open while cleaning/disinfecting
- Wear a disposable gown when cleaning and disinfecting after transporting a known or suspected COVID-19 individual.
- For frequently touched electronic surfaces, such as tablets or touch screens used in the vehicle, remove visible dirt, then disinfect following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect.
- Remove gloves and other PPE after cleaning and disinfecting.
- Wash hands immediately after removing PPE with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- If disposable gown was not used, remove and wash clothing as soon as possible.

WARNINGS

- Do not use ammonia-based cleaners on car touch screens or dashboards, as they can damage anti-glare and anti-fingerprint coatings.
- Do not mix bleach and ammonia or combine cleaning/disinfecting chemicals as doing so may lead to toxicity.
- Make sure staff are trained on the proper donning and doffing (putting on and taking off) of masks, gloves and gowns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS:

NYS Public Employees Federation

www.pef.org/covid

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

NYS Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

AFL-CIO

<https://aflcio.org/covid-19>

AFT

<https://www.aft.org/coronavirus>

Please contact the PEF Health and Safety Department with any question at HealthAndSafety@pef.org or 800-342-4306 Ext 254

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