

Niagara Region Public Health: Transportation Guidance

This document provides guidance to organizations who transport residential and non-residential clients to programs, services or community-based appointments.

Limit contact

- Have passengers sit in the back seats rather than the front.
- Consider spacing passengers in the back rows of seating to allow for physical distancing.
- Driver and passengers should consider wearing a non-medical mask, if tolerated.
- Consider having plexiglass shields professionally installed as a barrier between the driver and passengers in the back seats
- Avoid using the recirculated air option for the car's ventilation during passenger transport; use the car's vents to bring in outside air and/or lower the vehicle windows

Cohort and maintain good record-keeping

- Consider establishing a seating plan (i.e. assigned seating) for every trip
- Cohort residents / clients as much as possible:
 - Seat residents residing within the same congregate setting together
 - Seat clients who are in the same program cohort (e.g. day program) together
- Cohort staff with existing resident / client cohorts as much as possible:
 - Consider using residential staff assigned to the congregate setting as drivers for the same cohort of residents
 - Consider using staff assigned to the delivery of the program as drivers for the same cohort of clients
- Track and log client trips
- Agencies may be required to share seating plan/information and locations visited with Public Health upon request, to complete case contact tracing

Practice and promote good hygiene

- Drivers should wash hands before and after trips with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Drivers should clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand rub – particularly after helping passengers into the vehicle, handling or assisting with a passenger's personal items, making stops along the route, etc.
- Provide alcohol-based hand rub, tissues and a no-touch disposal receptacle for passenger use
- Avoid touching face (eyes, nose, or mouth)
- Consider placing signs for cough and sneeze etiquette in vehicles where passengers can see this information (e.g. in a clear plastic sleeve).

Clean and disinfect the vehicle and commonly touched surfaces

- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19
- In addition to routine cleaning, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g. car door handles, arm rests, buttons for windows and locks and seatbelts) at least:
 - Before and after each trip, and when visibly dirty
 - After transporting people going to and from hospital and other health care settings
 - After transporting passengers who have respiratory symptoms (e.g. coughing, sneezing)