

## COVID-19 Public Health Guidance: Taxi and Ride Share Vehicles

Last updated September 14, 2021

This document provides general Public Health guidance for owners and operators of taxi and ride share vehicles, including drivers, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. It does not replace guidance from the Province. This document is for information purposes only, and shall not be construed as legal advice.

On July 16, the Province shifted into Step 3 of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#). Residents, organizations and businesses must abide by the public health measures outlined. See [O. Reg. 364/20, Schedules 1, 2 and 3](#), for regulations for Step 3. The Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts will continue to monitor the data to determine when it is safe to exit the Roadmap.

For specific questions about COVID-19 provincial regulations, please contact the **Stop the Spread Business Information Line** at 1-888-444-3659.

### Ontario's enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate

Starting September 22, 2021, the provincial government will require certain businesses and settings to obtain proof of vaccination from customers/patrons. For more information refer to the [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations](#).

### Instructions for workplaces from Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health

Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health (MOH) issued [amended Instructions to businesses and organizations](#) to help keep staff and customers/patrons safe. The instructions take effect at 12:01 a.m. on **Friday, September 10, 2021**. They combine key existing requirements from the Province and Halton Region Public Health, with some new requirements. **Compliance with these instructions is mandatory.**

### Workplace vaccination

#### Workplace vaccination policy

To reduce COVID-19 transmission in the workplace, Halton Region's MOH recommends all local employers have a [workplace COVID-19 vaccination policy](#). For workplaces with more than 100 workers physically present, Halton Region Public Health requires mandatory [COVID-19 safety plans](#) and vaccination policies in place by September 22, 2021.

#### Encourage everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine

Getting vaccinated is one of the ways to stop the spread of COVID-19. Here are some ways you can support vaccination at your workplace:

- Develop a [workplace COVID-19 vaccination policy](#)
- Ensure employees are aware that everyone in Canada is eligible to receive a vaccine for free. Proof of identity is required but a health card is not required for vaccination.
- Share [COVID-19 vaccine resources](#), with staff, available in multiple languages

## COVID-19 public health measures for vehicle owners and/or taxi and ride share

The following COVID-19 Public Health Measures are recommended by Halton Region Public Health and should be considered in all steps of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#).

### Maximize physical distance and reduce contact

- Maintain a minimum physical distance of two metres (six feet) between individuals during vehicle loading and unloading.
- Ask passengers to sit in the back seat to increase the physical distance between the driver and the passenger.
- Consider installing a barrier (for example, plexiglass) between the driver and passenger in the back seat.
- Avoid shared rides so that passengers do not travel with individuals from outside of their household.
- Encourage contactless payments for passengers whenever possible. If using payment devices [clean and disinfect](#) between customers. If handling cash, use alcohol-based hand rub (60 – 90% alcohol) after each transaction and avoid touching your face.
- Ask passengers to handle their own bags and belongings during pick-up and drop-off. If passengers require assistance, wash or disinfect hands immediately before and after handling passenger belongings.
- Remove non-essential objects (for example, cup holders, newspapers and décor) from the vehicle.

### Require a mask and use personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Require the use of masks for drivers and passengers.
- [Consolidated By-law 47-20](#) requires individuals to wear a mask in indoor workplaces and public spaces, unless exempt.
- Masks can be removed when eating or drinking, but individuals must maintain physical distancing of two metres (six feet) between them.
- Masks do not replace other important public health measures, such as screening, physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, and staying home when feeling ill.

### Keep hands and surfaces clean

- Practice respiratory etiquette: cough or sneeze into the bend of the arm, not hands, or use a tissue and avoid touching your face, followed by an alcohol-based hand rub (60-90% alcohol).
- Maintain supplies in every vehicle, including alcohol-based hand rub (60-90% alcohol), tissues and no-touch waste receptacles with lined plastic bags for driver and passenger use.
- Request that passengers take waste with them once they reach their destination or remove waste between passengers. [Wash hands](#) for at least 15 seconds with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub (60 – 90% alcohol) after disposing of waste.

### Ensure appropriate ventilation

- Use the vehicle climate control system and windows to improve fresh air intake/air circulation.
- Avoid using the recirculated air option during passenger transport. This is especially important if the passenger is being transported to or from a hospital or other health care setting and/or is displaying respiratory symptoms.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of vehicles.
- Conduct frequent [cleaning and disinfection](#) of all high-touch surfaces (for example, car door handles, arm rests, buttons for windows and locks and seatbelts) **at least twice per day** and also:
  - when visibly dirty;
  - after transporting medical patients (for example, to and from hospital and other health care settings), and;

- after transporting passengers who display respiratory symptoms (for example, coughing, sneezing).
- Disinfectant wipes have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution and can easily be used between passengers. Discard disinfectant wipes if they become dry. Disinfectant wipes are not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces.
- Use only disinfectants that have an 8-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN), which confirms it is [approved for use in Canada](#). Check the expiry dates of products, follow the manufacturer's instructions and ensure that the product is compatible with the item to be cleaned and disinfected.

## Communicate health and safety measures

- Promote public health measures to passengers through a company website or outgoing telephone messages.
- Post signs summarizing key public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in vehicles where the information can be seen by passengers.

## Additional resources

- [Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
- [COVID-19 and Workplace Health and Safety](#)
- Workplace Safety & Prevention Services:
  - [Workplace Safety & Prevention Services Guidance on Health and Safety for Taxi Services, Ride Share and Rental Vehicle Services During COVID-19](#)