

COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidance for Rideshare and Taxi Drivers

The Washington State Department of Health understands the potential for loss of business for taxi and rideshare drivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've developed the guidance below to help you protect yourself and your passengers during this time.

If you work for a rideshare company, you may determine that you do not want to risk working during this time. For taxi drivers, this may not be an option. In addition, taxi drivers may work for a company with a non-ambulance transportation contract—meaning you may drive medical customers to the doctor's office or hospital. This may put you at increased risk for COVID-19.

Stay up-to-date.

Monitor public health updates from:

- [Local Public Health Department](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Situation Summary](#)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

If you have been exposed to someone with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 and are experiencing these symptoms, you might have COVID-19. Contact your healthcare provider to see if you can be tested. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are suspected to have COVID-19 but are not tested, you should [follow the instructions here](#).

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Keep yourself and your passengers protected.

To ensure you keep yourself and passengers protected, you can take the following steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- You should wear a cloth face covering, if possible, when you are around other people. If you are not able to wear a cloth face covering (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then passengers should wear a cloth face covering before they enter your vehicle.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Ask passengers to sit in the back to create physical distance.
- Avoid handling money, if possible. Consider wearing disposable gloves if you must collect money from customers. Use one pair of gloves per customer and throw them away after.
- Have tissues and hand sanitizer available for your passengers.
- Print and post information for passengers in your back seat.
 - Stop the Spread of Germs Flyer (CDC) [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Vietnamese](#)
 - [Coronavirus Factsheet](#) (available in different languages)

Disinfect your car regularly.

- Plan to clean and disinfect your car as often as possible—especially after you drop off passengers who appear to be sick and after every medical passenger. Pay close attention to surfaces that are touched often by passengers.
- Use a disinfectant that is pre-approved by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) for use against novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and only use them once.

Special precautions for drivers transporting patients to health care facilities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) considers “Medical transport workers (e.g., ambulance vehicle operators) moving known or suspected COVID-19 patients in enclosed vehicles” to be at high risk for exposure. If you are transporting medical customers, take the following precautions:

- Be sure to have alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol content and use it often.
- It is recommended that you wear personal protective equipment, such as disposable gloves and a face

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mask. It is important to replace your disposable gloves and face mask after every medical customer.

- If you are transporting a patient that is known to or is suspected to have COVID-19, OSHA recommends that you wear a respirator. You may also want to wear a gown and a face shield or goggles if you help customers in and out of the car.
- After helping a medical passenger out of the car, you should remove all protective equipment and wash your hands or use high alcohol content hand sanitizer before getting back into your car.
- Speak to your company administration about providing personal protective equipment if they have not provided it.

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

The risk of COVID-19 is not connected to race, ethnicity or nationality. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#).

Share accurate information with others to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

Have more questions about COVID-19? Call our hotline: **1-800-525-0127**. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. (Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact your health care provider.

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