



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

## COVID-19: General Guidance for Operators of Taxicabs

The Department of Public Works and Transportation is responsible for the licensing and operation of taxicabs. All licensed taxicabs operate on a meter system, providing a safe, comfortable, efficient and affordable experience. These well-equipped vehicles are operated by qualified individuals who have knowledge of the county's streets and strive to provide excellent customer service. Our goal is to protect the safety and welfare of our citizens by ensuring that businesses and individuals comply with county taxicab licensing laws by enforcing the codes and regulations in a fair and professional manner.

*This document provides guidance to vehicle operators to help slow person-to-person transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The situation is rapidly changing and guidance will be updated as new information becomes available.*

### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR VEHICLE OPERATORS

Vehicle operators should take the following precautions to keep themselves and their passengers protected.

- ❖ **Monitor your health closely for COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.**
  - ❖ Stay home when you are sick.
  - ❖ Stay away from people who are sick.
  - ❖ If you had or suspect you may have had COVID-19, stay home until:
    - It has been at least 14 days after your symptoms started.
    - You have not had a fever for the past 3 days without the use of fever reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
- ❖ **We encourage everyone to practice healthy personal hygiene:**
  - ❖ Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - ❖ Use an alcohol-based sanitizer which is at least 60% alcohol, if soap and water are not available.
  - ❖ Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
  - ❖ Have tissues/disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer available in your vehicle for your passengers.
  - ❖ Do not shake hands. Instead, greet people with a wave.
  - ❖ If you do physically interact with a customer, remember to wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after every transaction.
  - ❖ Stay away from people who are sick.
  - ❖ Stay home when you are sick.

### OUR GOAL

Protecting the safety and welfare of taxicab operators and passengers

### CLEAN AND DISINFECT YOUR VEHICLE ROUTINELY

- ❖ **Cleaning with soap and water removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.**
  - ❖ Pay special attention to surfaces and objects that passengers touch often, such as door handles, window buttons, locks, payment machines, arm rests, seat cushions, buckles and seatbelts.
  - ❖ Wipe down surfaces that you frequently touch, such as the steering wheel, radio controls, turn indicators and cup holders.
  - ❖ Keep the doors of the vehicle open while cleaning and disinfecting to allow for air to circulate. Wait until all surfaces have dried before giving a ride to a passenger.
  - ❖ Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Throw away gloves in the trash after each use. Wash hands immediately afterwards with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
  - ❖ Use cleaning products and [EPA-registered disinfectants](#) that are appropriate for the surface, following label instructions. For electronics, follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics. If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens.

### Getting Help

If you feel you are experiencing symptoms like cough, fever, and shortness of breath, call ahead to a health care provider to discuss your symptoms before going to the doctor.

You can also call the Prince George's County Health Department hotline to discuss: 301-883-6627

## MAINTAIN SOCIAL (PHYSICAL) DISTANCING AND WEAR A FACE COVERING

- ❖ Create more personal space. Keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others whenever possible.
- ❖ Ask passengers to sit in the back. If the vehicle has a partition, close the partition before picking up passengers. If not, consider putting up a clear plastic barrier between the front and back of the vehicle. *Note: Barrier should not interfere with your visibility of the rear-view mirror.*
- ❖ Only transport passengers who are in the same party/family. Group rides (also known as “shared” or “pooled” rides) are not permitted. *Note: This does not apply to paratransit vehicles.*
- ❖ Essential employees are required to wear a face covering if they have direct contact with people. Drivers must wear a face covering when transporting passengers or when they are within 6 feet of other people. Even when wearing a face covering, it is important to maintain physical distancing and good hand washing practices.
- ❖ Employers must provide face coverings to employees. A face covering is any well-secured paper or cloth (like a bandana or scarf) that covers your mouth and nose.
- ❖ Whenever possible, set ventilation to “non-recirculated air” mode in the driver and passenger compartments of the vehicle. Open the windows if this is not an option.

## STAY INFORMED

- Get your information about COVID-19 from trusted sources like the Prince George’s County Department of Health. A lot of information about coronavirus on social media and even in some news reports is not based on facts.
- Print and post information for passengers in your back seat. Visit the Prince George’s Department of Health website at [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1588/Health-Services](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1588/Health-Services) to download posters and flyers.

## QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

If you have general questions or comments pertaining to the taxicab industry, contact the Office of Transportation, Taxicab Licensing, Department of Public Works and Transportation at 301-324-2719.

To report any concerns, contact CountyClick 311. Service request may be submitted by dialing 311 if you are inside the county. Dialing 301-883-4748 if you are outside the County.

