

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

To help prevent spread of COVID-19, transportation providers should ensure staff continue to perform routine vehicle cleaning and may consider high-risk areas where additional cleaning and disinfection is warranted on a regular schedule. This guidance relates to medical transport providers other than Emergency Medical Service (EMS) vehicles, as more specific guidance for EMS is available through the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS).

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

- Occurs via small droplets from the nose or mouth of the infected person when they cough, sneeze, or exhale.
- Virus can remain on surfaces for a limited time period. Although likely less common, transmission may occur from touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

GENERAL PREVENTION

- Learn about COVID-19 from reputable sources.
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Encourage proper handwashing.
- Clean and sanitize surfaces often.
- Do not share food, drinks, etc.
- Wear cloth face coverings.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Isolate sick individuals.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- When cleaning vehicles, pay special attention to surfaces and objects that are touched often by passengers, such as door handles, window buttons, locks, payment machines, arm rests, seat cushions, buckles and seatbelts. Also wipe down surfaces that you frequently touch, such as the steering wheel, radio buttons, turn indicators, and cup holders.
- If a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 was symptomatic while in a specifically identified transportation setting (such as a vehicle), staff should perform cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched areas throughout the area. Keep doors of the vehicle open while cleaning to allow for sufficient air

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - continued

- exchange. Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures.
- **Step 1: Cleaning:** Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants in order to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.
- **Step 2: Disinfection:** Cleaning of soiled areas must be completed prior to disinfection to ensure the effectiveness of the disinfectant product. Once cleaned:
 - Use an Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation registered product specifically labeled for SARS-CoV-2, or
 - Use a disinfectant labeled as effective against rhinovirus and/or human coronavirus, or
 - Use a fresh chlorine bleach solution (approximately 1 tablespoon of bleach in 1 quart of water). Prepare the bleach solution daily or as needed.
- You may also search the product name in the EPA's registered product database at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- Label directions must be followed when using disinfectants to ensure the target viruses are effectively killed. This includes adequate contact times (i.e., the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective).
- Examples of frequently touched areas include:
 - Seats and handrails
 - Door handles and push plates
 - Handles on equipment (e.g., wheelchairs, hand carts)



EMPLOYEE HEALTH GUIDELINES

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub together until dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND OTHER DISEASE PREVENTION MEASURES

- Individuals with respiratory symptoms who are being transported should wear a face covering or mask.
- Have the individual sit in the back of the vehicle.
- Maintaining good ventilation (open windows, etc.) while transporting individuals may be beneficial.
- Transport workers should routinely wear a cloth facemask or covering.
- If providing medical transport in close quarters (< 6 ft) for an individual with known or suspect COVID-19, use applicable medical PPE (surgical mask or an N-95 mask, and gloves for patient contact).
- If waiting for the patient between transports, open doors and windows to enhance ventilation and wipe down frequently touched surfaces with a disinfectant.
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE.
- All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Staff performing cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle should follow recommendations for personal protective equipment listed on product labels (e.g., gloves, etc.).
- Doors and windows should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.

