**Cleaning and Disinfection for Vehicles**

**Strategies provided by the Department of Health Care Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The following are simple steps that may help to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

* Clean frequently-touched surfaces and objects, including door handles and seat belts, before providing rides in your vehicle. Wear disposable gloves during cleaning and then dispose after each use.
* Ensure that cleaning and disinfection procedures on the label of the product you are using are followed consistently and correctly, including the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use.
* Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle. When cleaning and disinfecting, individuals should wear disposable gloves compatible with the products being used as well as any other personal protective equipment according to the product manufacturer’s instructions. Use of a disposable gown is also recommended, if available, but if it is not, launder clothes after cleaning vehicle.
* For hard non-porous surfaces within the interior of the vehicle such as hard seats, arm rests, windows, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles, clean with detergent or soap and water if the surfaces are visibly dirty, prior to disinfectant application.
* For soft or porous surfaces such as fabric seats, remove any visible contamination, if present, and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning, use products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19external icon and that are suitable for porous surfaces. You can find details by going to this link: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
* For frequently touched electronic surfaces, such as tablets or touch screens used in the vehicle, remove visible dirt, then disinfect following the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect.
* Gloves and any other disposable Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) used for cleaning and disinfecting the vehicle should be removed and disposed of after cleaning.
	+ Wash immediately after removal of gloves and PPE with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
	+ If a disposable gown was not worn, clothes worn during cleaning and disinfecting should be laundered afterwards using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely. Wash hands after handling laundry.
* Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizers (at least 60 percent alcohol) when you cannot wash your hands.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands.
* Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough and/or sneeze and dispose of the tissue immediately.
* Get plenty of rest, drink fluids, eat healthy foods and manage your stress.

If you suspect a possible COVID-19 case, DHCS requests that you report it immediately to your local health jurisdiction.

**Sources used for this document:**

* Department of Health Care Services: COVID-19 Guidance – Non Emergency Medical Transportation
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Emergency Transport Vehicles. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>

**ADDITIONAL READING AND RESOURCES:**

CDPH Recommendations: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

Santa Barbara County Public Health: <https://publichealthsbc.org/>