

COVID-19 Transportation Guidance for Worksites and Work Camps

Overview

Given the complex nature of industrial operations, worksites and work camps are at higher risk of disease introduction, and the consequences for the workforce if an outbreak is declared can be significant.

This guidance applies to the transportation of asymptomatic individuals traveling to and from work sites/camps that are not currently experiencing an outbreak. For the transportation of symptomatic individuals offsite, please refer to the Alberta Work Camp Tool Kit. If a site is under an outbreak, additional controls may be required beyond those identified in this document.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General Guidance

- Develop a Rapid Response Plan (see [General Relaunch Guidance](#)), with procedures for responding when a staff member or passenger develops symptoms during a trip.
- Drivers and passengers should regularly self-screen for symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath, sore throat, or runny nose before departing for work.
- Drivers and passengers must pass a health screening and be asymptomatic to board the bus. A symptomatic individual or a failed prescreening questionnaire must not be allowed to ride, or operate, general transportation.
- If a driver or passenger has COVID symptoms, they must not work and must follow the procedures outlined in the company's Rapid Response Plan for symptomatic individuals.
- Utilize hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or higher) before and after riding the bus.
- Bus drivers and passengers should continuously mask, utilizing medical or non-medical masks.
- Increase cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces such as door handles (internal and external), railings, seatbelt clasps, window controls, seats and armrests, steering wheel, mobile devices, GPS, and washroom door handles and surfaces.
- Do not set airflow in the vehicle to the recirculating setting. Where weather and outside conditions permit, consider opening some windows on the bus.

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing of 2 meters between passengers that are not members of the same household is strongly recommended for all transportation.
- Consider how seating will need to be arranged to maintain distancing between parties. For example, leave empty seats between groups, alternate rows of occupied seats, or erect barriers between rows.
- If physical distancing of 2 meters between passengers cannot be maintained, continuous masking is required, in addition to the general guidance identified above. Consider the installation of physical barriers between passengers when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

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- Advise passengers to:
 - sit in the same seat throughout the trip,
 - stay in their seats as much as possible between stops,
 - maintain physical distancing at all times, both on and off the vehicle, and
 - avoid using washrooms in the vehicle unless absolutely necessary.
- Lineups to enter/exit the vehicle should be monitored for physical distancing.

Passengers

- Instruct passengers to enter the vehicle in a specific order, starting with those seated in the back seats. Passengers should proceed directly to their assigned seats.
- Passengers exiting from the vehicle should start from the front seats.
- Allow passengers to enter, exit, load, and collect belongings without assistance, where possible.
- Maintain a list of passengers and contact information for two weeks to support contact tracing
- Consider assigning/tracking seating to support contact tracing

Drivers

- Consider installing a physical barrier, such as an acrylic sheet, between the driver and passengers and/or have staff exit the vehicle first and enter last to enable distancing from passengers.
- No PPE is required if the driver is only driving, and the driver remains inside the vehicle behind an acrylic barrier. Handwashing or hand sanitizer use should still occur when getting on and off the bus.
- If no acrylic barrier is in place:
 - Wear a medical/non-medical mask or face covering.
 - Perform hand hygiene before putting PPE on, before taking it off, and immediately after removing it.
- Drivers should launder or change clothes/uniforms daily.

Cleaning Staff

- Self-monitor for symptoms of cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat, and follow the Rapid Response Plan if symptoms develop.
- Ensure staff have access to handwashing facilities and/or hand sanitizer as required and practice hand hygiene frequently.
- Staff is strongly encouraged to wear non-medical masks

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect all touch surfaces in the vehicle between groups, including those listed above and in the seating areas (e.g., armrests, seat belt clasps, tray tables, seatbacks).
- Schedule time between trips for cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Respond immediately to sanitation concerns
- Maintain cleaning and disinfecting plans for daily bus operations.

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- Preferable that surfaces are all easily cleanable, wipeable. If cloth seats are used, consider frequent steam cleaning of the seats or alternative cleaning products in consultation with AHS-Environmental Public Health at Work.Camps@ahs.ca

Other Considerations

- Consider posting signage addressing respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. Provide advice to passengers on how to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19
- Consider providing cleaning/disinfectant wipes in washrooms so passengers can wipe down surfaces after use
- Consider staggering unloading times to avoid large crowds from forming during unloading and accessing the site.

Private Vehicle

- Private vehicles can be used by their owner.
- Private vehicles should not be used for an asymptomatic individual to transport a symptomatic individual.
- Have masks and hand sanitizer available as needed.
- If the owner is a symptomatic individual or close contact, they should avoid any stops between the site and their final destination, where they are required to self-isolate. If stops need to be made (example – bathroom, gas, etc.), a mask must be worn at all times, and hand hygiene practiced; the time spent at the stop should be limited as much as possible.
- Carpooling is not recommended for individuals that are not members of the same household.
- If carpooling is required, limit capacity to support physical distancing. Continuous masking and hand hygiene must be practiced.

Light Passenger Vehicle

- If physical distancing cannot be met, continuous masking and hand hygiene must be practiced;
- Consider installing a physical barrier, such as a clear acrylic sheet, to separate the driver from passenger seating
- Consider reducing vehicle occupancy and determine seating arrangements that allow for greatest distancing within the vehicle (for example passenger sits opposite corner from the driver in the backseat.)
- Cohort passengers of multi-person vehicles (e.g., keep the same people in the same vehicle as much as possible, same driver same passengers)
- If a vehicle passenger becomes symptomatic and/or tests positive for COVID, the vehicle should undergo a full cleaning and disinfection before the next use.

Taxi

- For guidance on the use of a taxi, please see the guidance document at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-taxis-limos-rideshares>

Close Contacts

- It is important to note there are a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration when determining who is or is not a close contact in any given situation. Even with the implementation of all applicable guidance in this document, if a passenger is identified as COVID positive, the other bus passengers may be considered close contacts.
- A Medical Officer of Health will work with Communicable Disease Control investigators on a case by case basis to identify close contacts within the context of the situation.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

Edmonton Main Office
Calgary Main Office
Lethbridge Main Office

780-735-1800
403-943-2288
403-388-6689

Grande Prairie Main Office
Red Deer Main Office
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