

Phase I car and van transportation operation guidelines

Beginning on May 11, 2020, car and van transportation operations may continue current services. In accordance with Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) emergency regulations, providers must prepare and implement a [COVID-19 Control Plan](#). The RIDOH emergency regulations can be found [here](#). The State prepared a [guidance document](#) to assist businesses in meeting the requirements outlined in these RIDOH regulations. Car and van transportation operators must comply with RIDOH regulations and active [executive orders](#). Car and van transportation operators must also comply with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [guidelines](#).

For the purpose of these guidelines, “Car and van transportation operations” include, but are not limited to, taxi service, rideshare services, and non-ambulance, non-emergency medical transportation providers. The guidelines below summarize **additional** steps Rhode Island is asking taxi and rideshare operators to take.

Taxi and Rideshare Operators: If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact Joseph Masino at Joseph.masino@governor.ri.gov.

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Providers: If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact Jason Lyon at Jason.lyon@ohhs.ri.gov.

Phase I Operations:

- **Social distancing:** To maintain proper distance, passengers should refrain from sitting in the front of the vehicle.
- **Vehicle ridership:** Drivers should limit occupancy to no more than two passengers per vehicle. Passengers must be of the same ride party. If not, then only one passenger per vehicle is permitted. Drivers may waive the limit for members of the same household, if the vehicle can accommodate all riders in the back seat(s).
- **Screening Signage:** Screening signage should be posted in the back seat of the vehicle.
- **Cleaning procedures:** Drivers should wipe down vehicle surfaces after each ride with disinfectant utilizing the products written instructions for use. This includes, but is not limited to, high-touch surfaces such as door handles, seat belts, and arm rests. Drivers should wear gloves when cleaning the vehicle.
- **Face Coverings:** All persons (drivers and passengers) are required to wear face coverings when providing or using the services of any car or van transportation in accordance with RIDOH regulations and [Executive Order 20-30](#). Face coverings shall not be required of those who are developmentally unable to comply, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask. Nothing in this guidance shall require a place of business to refuse entry to a customer not wearing a face covering.

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- **Sanitizing:** Drivers should wash or sanitize hands on a routine basis. At a minimum, this should be done after each ride. Drivers should carry personal hand sanitizer.
- **Ventilation:** Drivers should avoid recirculating air through the car's ventilation system during passenger transport. Drivers are strongly encouraged to open windows or allow the passenger to lower the vehicle windows, in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#).

