



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FAQ FOR PUBLIC VEHICLE INDUSTRY

The Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) is working closely with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) to monitor the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. CDPH has been working hard for months to ensure we are as prepared as a city as we can be. While most cases of COVID-19 cause a mild illness, the virus is spreading easily from person to person and this puts entire communities at risk.

While many persons in our community may get sick, the vast majority will recover. However, people who are older and who have chronic health conditions are more likely to have a serious illness. We know that many of you may be worried about how this affects you. We appreciate the efforts you are taking to keep our community healthy and we encourage you all to continue reaching out and taking steps to promote the health of our community.

The FAQ below provides recommendations from CDPH on what the Public Vehicle Industry needs to know. Please visit www.chicago.gov/coronavirus for more information.

What do I need to know about COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Symptoms include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

How is COVID-19 transmitted?

The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet for 10 minutes) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People are thought to be most contagious when they are the sickest.

Who is most at risk for COVID-19?

While many persons in our community may get sick, the vast majority will recover. Most cases of COVID-19 result in mild illness. To date, children also seem less likely to become ill. But people who are older and who have chronic health conditions are more likely to have a serious illness. Those at higher risk include:

- People over 60 years of age. The risk increases significantly thereafter and escalates with age, with persons over age 80 in the highest risk category.
- People, regardless of age, with underlying health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, or chronic lung diseases like COPD, as well as those with severely weakened immune systems.



What should I do as a member of the Public Vehicle Industry?

If you're at higher risk, you **should** stay home as much as possible. Do not go to work, do not travel and do not attend public events or large gatherings. Consider ways of getting food, supplies, and necessary medications brought to your house, and have a plan if you get sick. If you develop symptoms, seek medical care right away.

Public Passenger Chauffeurs, Owners and Operators who are not sick and/or at higher risk should follow the general precautions outlined in CDPH's [Guidance for Individuals and Households](#). At this point, there is no need to limit travel within the city.

The following precautions can be taken to promote healthy activity in the public vehicle industry:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. When hands are visibly dirty, always wash with soap and water.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Do not shake hands. Try alternatives like an elbow bump or wave.
- Clean and disinfect vehicles at least daily. Pay special attention to surfaces and objects that are frequently touched by passengers, such as door handles, arm rests and seat belts.
- Take extra precautions when transporting a sick passenger, such as cleaning and disinfecting immediately following the ride.
- Keep windows open when possible and increase ventilation.

What should I do if I am sick?

- If you are sick, you **must** stay home. If you do NOT have a high-risk condition and your symptoms are mild, you do not need to be evaluated in person and do not need to be tested for COVID-19.
- If you have a medical appointment, call ahead before visiting a doctor and help keep other people from getting infected or exposed.
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home
- Monitor your symptoms. If you have a medical emergency, call 911.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you do not have a tissue, cover your cough with your upper sleeve.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. When hands are visibly dirty, always wash with soap and water.
- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home.
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day, including counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.



How should Employers handle COVID-19?

Businesses and employers should actively encourage enhanced hand and respiratory hygiene.

All employees who are sick must stay home. Do not require a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or to return to work, as healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

Businesses should review their emergency operations plan, including identification of essential business functions, teleworking and flexible sick leave policies. Plan for how your business will operate if there is increasing absenteeism due to employees or their family members being sick or temporary school closings. For more information, see CDPH's COVID-19 [Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#).

How do I Prevent Discrimination?

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), people who do not live in or have not recently been in an area of ongoing spread of COVID-19, or have not been in contact with a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 are not at greater risk of spreading COVID-19 than other Americans, no matter their nationality. It is important to fight stigma, fear and discrimination by proactively sharing this message and countering misinformation, supporting people who may be coming back to school or work after traveling internationally or completing a quarantine or isolation period for COVID-19 and by ensuring nondiscriminatory practices in the public vehicle industry.

We anticipate that we will see more cases in Chicago. It is important for everyone to pay close attention to the guidance from the health experts, including the [Chicago Department of Public Health](#), the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) and the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy.