

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Van and Car Pools

Recent Updates:

10/31/20: List of COVID-19 symptoms updated as well as details regarding how it is spread

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is asking for your assistance to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County.

COVID-19 Overview

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can present with symptoms such as: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Some people get COVID-19 without ever showing symptoms but they can still spread the infection to others. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

Guidelines for Van and Carpools

The recommendations below can help to ensure that both drivers and riders remain healthy.

1. Passengers and drivers should not ride in the van or carpool if they are sick.
2. Drivers can refuse to provide transport to a visibly sick passenger for safety reasons. However, discrimination against passengers on the basis of race, or national origin is not allowed.
3. Both passengers and drivers are required to wear cloth face coverings at all times during the ride. Individuals who cannot remove a face covering by themselves, have difficulty breathing, or have been told not to wear one by their medical provider do not have to wear a face covering. Children under the age of 2 (including infants) should not wear cloth face coverings. Those between the ages of 2 and 8 should use them but under adult supervision to ensure that the child can breathe safely and avoid choking or suffocation.
4. Passengers that are not from the same household or living unit should space themselves out in the vehicle such that riders are not next to each other. Ideally, only one passenger should be in a row and should not be directly in front of or behind the passengers/driver in the next row.
5. Passengers should not ride in the front seat next to the driver.
6. Passengers and drivers should maintain six feet of distance when outside of the vehicle.
7. Passengers should handle their own items such as bags, books, etc and should minimize the number of items brought in the vehicle with them.
8. No food or beverages should be brought inside the vehicle.

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9. Maintain good ventilation. Avoid using recirculated air options while there are passengers in the vehicle; use the car's vents to bring in fresh outside air and/or lower the vehicle windows.
10. Cleaning sprays or disposable wipes, disposal trash bags and tissues should be kept in the vehicle in order to clean visibly dirty surfaces or to provide to anyone who might need to cough or sneeze.
11. Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, steering wheels, gear shifts and radio/air conditioning/heating controls should be cleaned after every ride.
12. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, should be used after touching frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, pumping gas and after exiting the vehicle.

Know where to get reliable information

Beware of scams, false news and hoaxes surrounding novel coronavirus. Visit Public Health's COVID-19 scams webpage (ph.lacounty.gov/hccp/covidscams) for information and resources on how to [avoid COVID-19 health care scams](#). Accurate information, including announcements of new cases in LA County, will always be distributed by Public Health through press releases, social media, and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics and a guide to coping with stress, as well as tips on handwashing.

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
 - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
 - Social media: @lapublichealth

Other reliable sources of information about novel coronavirus are:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
 - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.