

There may be circumstances where you are asked to drive a family member, friend, or neighbour to a COVID-19 testing appointment. To reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19 from your passenger to yourself or other users of the vehicle, we provide the following recommendations:

- **Hand hygiene.** Both driver and passenger should wash their hands or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer before entering the vehicle. As the driver, any time you contact a common-touch surface (i.e. car door handle), you should wash your hands or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.
- **Prevent the spread of COVID-19 from ill passengers.**
 - You and your passenger should wear a [face covering](#) (i.e. medical or non-medical mask or a tightly woven fabric mask); this will provide a barrier and help trap droplets that may be created from speaking, coughing, sneezing, etc. The risk of spread is lower when a sick individual is wearing a properly adorned face covering.
 - Try to limit transporting unnecessary personal items into the vehicle (e.g. coats, bags, blankets). Consider placing these in a non-porous bin that can be disinfected after use.
 - Have tissues and wipes accessible to your passenger and have a means of immediately discarding these items within reach of the passenger, such as using a lined trash container.
- **Physical distancing.** Try to maintain as much distance as possible between yourself and your passenger. Have your passenger sit in the back seat and only transport that one individual. If the passenger requires assistance to get in and out of the vehicle, you should consider wearing additional PPE such as a face shield to prevent exposure to droplets or gloves. Ensure you practice proper hand hygiene after coming into contact with the passenger or their belongings when they require assistance.
- **Ventilation.** Weather permitting, open the windows to increase ventilation. When using the vents or air-conditioning, set them to allow outdoor air in; do not recirculate the air in the vehicle.
- **Environmental sanitation.**
 - Wear gloves and practice proper hand hygiene if you have to handle any items or garbage left behind by your passenger.
 - At the end of the trip, sanitize the passenger area after passenger leaves the vehicle. Make sure you wipe down all of the high touch surfaces (i.e. door handles, seat-belts, armrests, etc.). We recommend using chlorine based products (500 ppm chlorine), disinfectant wipes with a DIN, or other approved sanitizers. Make sure to read and follow the directions on the package.
 - There is a low risk of transmission of COVID-19 through seats. When cleaning the porous materials (i.e. cloth seats, fabrics) in your car:
 - Provided they are not saturated, wiping the surface with a sanitizing/disinfecting product intended for porous surfaces would remove surface contamination.
 - You can steam clean them, a minimum temperature of 71°C is considered effective.
 - Remember to wash your hands thoroughly once finished cleaning and sanitizing.

If you have further questions or require any resources, please contact your local Health Protection and Environmental Services Office. Contact information can be acquired at: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-locations/health-protection-environmental-services-locations>

For common COVID-19 questions see: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/common-questions>