Taxi and Rideshare Guidelines & Recommendations

NASMDA: The North American Sikh Medical and Dental Association has created a COVID-19-specific driver safety checklist available in English here and in Punjabi here. The list includes information on supplies, how to prepare your vehicle before driving, physical distance recommendations, and health guidelines.

CDC: As a driver-for-hire, potential sources of exposure include having close contact with passengers with COVID-19 or touching surfaces previously touched or handled by a person with COVID-19. The CDC recommends that you stay home if you are sick, wear a cloth face covering, regularly clean and disinfect your vehicle, and limit contact with passengers. With regard to passengers:

- The CDC also recommends that you immediately report any passengers intentionally spreading their germs in car interior to management or your app rideshare company as appropriate.
- If you feel uncomfortable with providing transport to a visibly sick passenger for safety reasons, you can choose to refuse transport.
- Ask passengers to wear a cloth face covering and cover their mouth and nose with tissues if they cough or sneeze. Ask the passenger to dispose of the tissues after exiting the vehicle.
- Ask passengers to sit in the back seat and do not let passengers sit in the front seat.

For more details on CDC recommendations for taxi and rideshare drivers, visit this webpage.

TLC: TLC has created COVID-19 guidance, including information on driver health, vehicle cleaning, and face covering requirements; the TLC has also provided general guidance for vehicle operators in English and Punjabi. In general, like the CDC, the TLC also recommends that you monitor your health more closely than usual for COVID-19 symptoms, practice healthy personal hygiene, clean and disinfect your vehicle routinely, and maintain social (physical) distancing. Key guidelines also include:

- To help maintain physical distance, ask passengers to sit in the back.
- If the vehicle has a partition, close the partition before picking up passengers. If the vehicle does not have a partition, consider putting up a clear plastic barrier between the front and back of the vehicle.
- TLC is also allowing all vehicles without partitions the opportunity to have temporary partitions installed by approved partition installers. Traditionally, partitions have had to meet the technical requirements contained in the TLC’s rules. However, the TLC is temporarily easing restrictions to allow non-bulletproof partitions to be installed by approved installers. For a list of approved partition installers, click here
- As of April 17, 2020, New York State requires all TLC drivers and passengers to wear face coverings while riding together. You can use a homemade mask, bandana, or a scarf to cover your mouth and nose.

Trucker Guidelines and Recommendations
ATA: Guidelines from the American Trucking Associations are available here. These guidelines mostly mirror CDC guidelines and include information on truck stops and rest areas, dining and lodging, personal protective equipment (PPE), and how to reduce exposure to COVID-19.

CDC: For long-haul truck drivers, potential sources of COVID-19 exposure include having close contact with truck stop attendants, store workers, dock workers, other truck drivers, or others, and touching your face after contacting surfaces touched or handled by a person with COVID-19. The CDC recommends that you:

- Notify your supervisor and stay home if having symptoms or if you are well but have a sick family member at home with COVID-19
- Make a plan with your employer and your family as to what to do if you become sick while you’re on the road. Include where to stop, where and how to seek medical advice and treatment, and plans for freight delivery.
- Limit close contact with others by maintaining a distance of at least six feet when possible.
- Limit time spent outside of the truck cab during fueling, loading and unloading, and at rest and truck stops.
- Use paperless, electronic invoicing for fueling, deliveries, and other tasks, when available.
- Contact facilities in advance to make an appointment for unloading of cargo. Be aware that some facilities may not grant access to restrooms, and plan as best you can.
- Use radio or phone to talk with dock managers or other drivers, if possible.
- Pack food, water, and supplies to limit the number of stops.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- Keep your truck well-ventilated.
- Wear face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. When team driving or ride-alongs are required, wear face coverings inside the truck and avoid sharing bedding in the sleeper berth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on a routine basis.
- If a third party must have access to the interior of your truck (like mechanics, other drivers, or inspectors), request that the third party clean and disinfect the truck before turning it back over to you.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Do not share PPE (including vests, safety glasses, hard hats), tools, phones, radios, or other personal items.
- Use pre-qualified truck stops or hotels identified by your employer as having appropriate COVID-19 protections.

For more details on CDC recommendations for truck drivers, visit this webpage.