

Guidance on precautions for transport drivers during COVID-19

Overview

This is not a legal document and employers are advised to seek legal advice.

Employers and constructors have obligations to protect workers from hazards in the workplace as set out in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and its regulations and the directives coming from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Workers should raise any concerns to their:

- Supervisor
- Joint health and safety committee
- Health and safety representative

This will help ensure the employer has taken all reasonable precautions.

Ontario is currently in the midst of a global pandemic. While the COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, the legislation and regulations used to govern Ontario's workplaces are not.

Under Ontario law, employers have the duty to keep workers and work sites safe and free of hazards. Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work. If health and safety concerns are not resolved internally, a worker can seek enforcement by filing a complaint with the ministry's Health and Safety Contact Centre at 1-877-202-0008. Failure of the employer or constructor to comply with the OHSA and its regulations could result in a stop-work order upon inspection by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

Recognize hazards and assess risks

The COVID-19 virus typically spreads through coughing and sneezing, personal contact with an infected person, or touching an infected surface and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.

Potential exposures for transport drivers. Truck drivers spend approximately 25% of their time performing non-driving activities. The following list describes some of the potential exposures for drivers when performing their non-driving duties:

- Close contact with others during pick-up and delivery.
- Exposure to contaminated areas of the cab when using a shared vehicle.
- Touching potentially contaminated items during the course of the delivery, such as:
 - Touching pens when signing for pickups or deliveries.
 - Handling clipboards with paperwork during the signing process.
 - Touching the keypad of a handheld screening device used for proof of delivery.
 - Touching cargo during loading and unloading.
 - Touching the entry door at facilities during delivery.



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- Other potential exposures that may be encountered include:
 - Touching pump handle, exterior of vehicle, keypads at fueling stations, or other materials.
 - Use of washrooms at rest stops or at warehouses (doors, taps, sinks etc.).
 - Close contact with people or other drivers at rest stops.

Controls

- 1. Maintain physical distancing.** Physical distancing generally means maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) or more between persons. By maintaining social distancing, you are less likely to be exposed to a respiratory virus.
- 2. Clean vehicle cab frequently.** Cleaning methods should be employed with special attention to certain areas as specified below. (**Note:** If using a shared vehicle it is important to clean the cab before leaving the terminal.)
 - Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., nitrile gloves) when cleaning the cab or touching potentially contaminated surfaces.
 - Many non-penetrable surfaces in the cab can be cleaned with detergent and water. Frequently touched surfaces in the interiors of the cab and components should be cleaned first with detergent and water and then disinfected.
 - Dispose of gloves and other soiled cleaning materials in a sturdy plastic bag as soon as possible. Tightly tie the bag and dispose of it immediately.
 - Remove garbage from the cab regularly.
 - Clean or replace cabin filter if necessary to ensure you are breathing clean air in the vehicle.
 - Wash your hands once cleaning is complete.
- 3. On route/ deliveries.** The following methods should be employed when stopping at a delivery point:
 - Limit the amount of face-to-face contact during deliveries.
 - If possible, stay in the cab and wait for cargo to be loaded/unloaded.
 - Use technology to communicate with shippers/receivers.
 - Wait in a separate designated area if one is available to avoid close contact with others.
 - Wear gloves when handling any packages.
 - Avoid the use of shared pens.
 - Use technology (scanning devices) for proof of delivery.
 - Once the delivery/stop is complete, ensure that you wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer before returning to the vehicle.

Evaluate

Monitor how well your processes are allowing you to maintain physical distance and good hygiene. Report to your employer any shortcomings with client drop-off points/locations and their processes in helping you maintain your health and safety. Look for opportunities to improve any conditions or issues that arise rather than working within them.



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Monitor supplies. As you increase cleaning and disinfecting, monitor your supply of disinfectant wipes, products and PPE (gloves) to ensure you have sufficient supplies.

Monitor frequency of cleaning. Ensure that all areas get sanitized on a regular basis and that no area has been overlooked.

Stay home if you are feeling ill. If you detect symptoms, including cough, fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately distance yourself from others and go home. If possible, avoid using public transit. Ensure you notify your supervisor so that they are aware of the situation and can also notify others who may have been exposed.

For Ontario residents, anyone who suspects that they have contracted COVID-19 should call 811 (NOT 911) instead of going to the hospital or a family doctor. Direct toll-free phone numbers for Ontario residents are: 1-866-797-0000 or TTY: 1-866-797-0007. Visit the Ontario Ministry of Health's website and taking their [self-assessment](#).

Resources

Stay updated with daily government updates on COVID-19:

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Government of Canada](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

