

Guidance for transport of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 by family members or other non-professionals

Background: During the COVID-19 pandemic, family members or other non-professionals may need to transport patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to or from healthcare facilities. In order to decrease the risk of transmission during transportation, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health has the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

- While transporting the patient, both the patient and the driver should wear surgical masks, if available. The masks should cover their noses and mouths and they should avoid touching the masks and their faces.
- The patient should sit as far as possible from the driver (right hand back seat). No one other than the driver and the patient should ride in the vehicle.
- During transport, vehicle ventilation should be on non-recirculated mode to maximize air changes that reduce potentially infectious particles in the vehicle.
- Consider opening the windows next to both the driver and the patient to improve ventilation.
- **On arrival to a healthcare facility**, try to maintain a 6-foot distance between driver and patient if possible. The patient should keep their mask in place. Once transport is complete, the driver should remove mask, if wearing one, avoiding touching their face. They should then wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.
- **On arrival to the home**, try to maintain a 6-foot distance between driver and patient if possible. If wearing masks, keep them in place until the patient has moved to the room in which they will be isolating. The patient may then remove mask. Once transport is complete, the driver should remove mask, if wearing one, avoiding touching their face. They should then wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.
- After the patient has left the vehicle, use disinfectant wipes to wipe down suitable surfaces such as plastic.