

## Safety Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Shared Vehicles and Equipment

This guidance is to mitigate the transmission of novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and other seasonal diseases through exposure from the daily operation of shared vehicles and equipment. The best way to prevent COVID-19 is to protect yourself and others from being exposed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has put out helpful [guidance on protecting](#) yourself from COVID-19 and [information for people with asthma](#).

University of Kentucky departments should make every effort to reduce vehicle and equipment sharing by, when feasible, assigning vehicles and equipment to be used by individual employees. After each use, the department shall mandate the cleaning and disinfecting techniques discussed in this guide. By employing regular cleaning and disinfecting practices with our shared vehicles and equipment, we can effectively minimize the transmission of disease.

According to [a study published in \*The New England Journal of Medicine\*](#), SARS-CoV-2 is viable for up to 72 hours on plastics, 48 hours on stainless steel, 24 hours on cardboard, and four hours on copper. It is also detectable in the air for three hours. This resiliency provides a source of contamination for the next operator or occupants of our vehicles and equipment. By contacting contaminated surfaces, employees can transfer those pathogens to other commonly touched surfaces outside the vehicle, which may lead to illness. By using approved cleaners and disinfectants, employees can remove the vast majority of bacteria and viruses that cause the flu, the common cold, COVID-19, and other seasonal illnesses and reduce the probability of transmission.

## Definitions

- **Cleaning** refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them it lowers their numbers and decreases the risk of spreading infection. Cleaning is typically performed using soap, detergents, cleansers, and clean water before a disinfecting method is used.
- **Disinfecting** refers to the use of chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but, by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting is typically performed using approved commercial or household disinfecting solutions.
- **Equipment** refers to forklifts, aerial lifts, scissor lifts, pallet jacks, hand carts, tractors, and other agricultural equipment.
- **Vehicles** refers to fleet cars, utility carts, all-terrain utility vehicles, golf carts, passenger vans, and buses.

[Click here](#) for a list of EPA-approved products for use against SARS-CoV-2.

## Guidelines for Shared Vehicles and Equipment

Prior to and following the use of company-owned vehicles and equipment, employees must:

- **Protect yourself** by wearing waterproof cleaning gloves and masks if available (nitrile gloves are acceptable). Chemicals in cleaning products can irritate the skin, eyes, and lungs, so avoid direct contact. Note: Wearing gloves will not stop transmission from a contaminated surface to another surface. Glove use does not replace hand hygiene. Cleanse hands after removing gloves.
- **Clean commonly touched surfaces** before and after operation and prior to disinfecting.

- Disinfect all commonly touched surfaces used to access and control the vehicle or equipment; examples of common surfaces include, but are not limited to:

## KEY INTERIOR TOUCH POINT AREAS

- + Interior Door Levers/Window & Door Lock Controls
- + Upper Door Trims /Armrest
- + Power Seat Switches
- + HVAC Vents/Controls
- + Steering Wheel/Buttons
- + Lower IP Various Buttons
- + Hood Release
- + Ignition Switch
- + Multifunction Levers
- + Radio Various Buttons
- + Center Console & Glove Box Buttons/Handle
- + Cup Holders
- + Shift Lever
- + Seat Belt Adjusters/Buckles/Locks
- + Seats If Necessary
- + Inner Mirror/Visors/Assist Handles/Moonroof Shade Handle/Maps Lamps & Various Buttons (SOS/Home Link/Sunroof)



*Note: IF REPAIRS ARE PERFORMED ON INTERIOR PARTS OR COMPONENTS NOT LISTED ABOVE, PLEASE ENSURE THAT THOSE SURFACES ARE ALSO WIPES DOWN FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES PROVIDED*

## KEY EXTERIOR TOUCH POINT AREAS

- + All Exterior Handles
- + Fuel Lid/Gas Cap
- + Trunk or Tailgate Button/Pull
- + Keyfob
- + Front Hood Area/Lever (If Vehicle Serviced)



- [Safely remove](#) and discard disposable personal protective equipment.
- [Wash hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Throw away protective wear if damaged or soiled with bodily fluids.

## Other Helpful Reminders

- **Social Distancing:** Keep space between yourself and others outside of your home. To practice social distancing, stay at least 6 feet from other people, do not gather in a group, and avoid crowded places and mass gatherings.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Employees can reduce the spread of germs by washing their hands often, especially during times when you are likely to be exposed to or spread germs. Use respiratory etiquette by covering a cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve to avoid expelling viral secretions on vehicle surfaces.
- **Sanitizing Vehicles/Equipment for Maintenance:** Wipe down every touched surface in a vehicles—first when entering the vehicle and then again when it is returned.
- **Refueling:** Wipe down the fuel pump handle and keypad prior to inputting payment information. If no sanitizing wipes are available, use a paper towel to grab the fuel dispenser handle. Wipe down cards once payment is complete. If you wear gloves when refueling, be sure to dispose of them prior to re-entering the vehicle. Perform hand hygiene after removing gloves.

Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Case: Use the following general guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting vehicles used to transport persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>

For any additional questions, please contact the University of Kentucky's Department of Occupational Health and Safety at 859-257-9739 or by email at [mla263@uky.edu](mailto:mla263@uky.edu).

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