



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

COVID-19 GUIDANCE - TAXI VAN, SAFARIS, AND LIMOUSINE SERVICES

Issued and Effective on: June 1, 2020

The Government of the US Virgin Islands (the Government) takes its mission to protect the lives and health of residents, visitors and business owners and employees in the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency seriously. Because there is a higher risk of transmission of the COVID virus in the enclosed space of a vehicle for hire where parties will be in close proximity, heightened precautions are necessary. To that end, the Government and the VI Taxi Commission have developed guidance for drivers and passengers that may appear drastic in certain instances, but has been developed and deployed to avoid transmission of a virus that has no cure and to achieve the goal of protecting everyone's health and life. THIS IS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH MATTER.

The Virgin Islands Department of Health (VI DOH) recommends strict adherence to guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as the Universal Guidelines for All Businesses.

Please Note: This Guidance Protocol is prepared from a regulatory perspective as to what will be required of all parties doing business as Taxi Vans, Safaris, and Limousine Services and what can and will be enforced by Enforcement Officers. There are certain advisories for Suggested Better Business Practices included; these are not regulatory or intended to be enforced by Enforcement Officers. We urge reference to and use of the reference sources listed at the bottom of the Guidance for general business practice guidance.

General Business Guidance

- Workers who seek medical attention or exhibit signs of illness must not report to work.
- All taxicabs and safaris operating are limited to one half of their previously allowable capacity.
- Advise employees where to find accurate information about COVID-19, its symptoms, and how it spreads: <https://www.cdc.gov/eoronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#How-COVID-19-Spreads>
- All drivers in the course of operation of vehicle must use a face covering, especially in enclosed areas.

- All drivers reporting to work should develop a daily routine for screening themselves for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) symptoms using the questionnaire attached as Attachment A and taking their temperature.
 - Normal temperature should not exceed 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Drivers with a temperature below 100.4°F and who answer “no” to all questions, can begin their shift.
 - Drivers with a temperature higher than 100.4°F or who answered “yes” to any question must be sent home by their manager and advised not to return to work until cleared by a medical professional.
 - Drivers who refuse to have their temperature checked or to answer any of the questions must be sent home.

- Employers and Employees must follow sanitization frequency guidance contained in this document at all times.
 - Encourage good hand hygiene: handwashing with soap and water for no less than 20 seconds
 - Frequent use of hand sanitizer, which means any hand antiseptic with an alcohol content of 60% or more, hand rub, soap, wipe, or agent applied to the hands for the purpose of removing common pathogens.
 - Hand antiseptics and hand sanitizers must meet the criteria for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s food additive definition of Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS).
 - Not touching of hands to face
 - Good respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing: Carry tissues in your vehicle to use when you cough, sneeze or touch your face. Throw used tissues in a secured plastic bag for disposal**

- Additional periods during which hand hygiene methods (hand washing and use of hand sanitizers) should be employed:
 - Before and after work shifts
 - Before and after work breaks
 - After handling passengers’ personal belongings, if unavoidable
 - Between rides and after handling/exchanging money
 - After putting on, touching or removing cloth face coverings
 - Before wearing and after removing gloves
 - Before and after pumping gas

- Use and provide assistance to drivers in acquiring - hand sanitizer, disposable wipes and cleaning products so that commonly touched vehicle surfaces can be wiped down by drivers.

- Develop policies and adopt technology options that allow and prioritize contactless transactions that limit or eliminate close contact. The sharing of items such as pens and electronic signature pads between drivers and passengers should be limited.

Passengers

- Passengers should wear a 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 in a secured plastic bag.**
- Immediately report any passengers intentionally spreading their germs in the-interior of the vehicle to management, and/or the authorities, as appropriate.
- If you feel uncomfortable with providing transport to a visibly sick passenger for safety reasons, you can choose to refuse transport. However, discrimination against passengers on the basis of race, national origin, or other reasons as described in your company's policies is prohibited.
- Driver's should limit occupancy of vehicle to related parties in a single group; and avoid mixing unrelated passengers where possible.

Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines

At a minimum, clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces in the vehicle at the beginning and end of each shift and between transporting each group of passengers.

Ensure that cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, including the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use.

Doors and windows should remain open when cleaning the vehicle. When cleaning and disinfecting, individuals should wear disposable gloves compatible with the products being used as well as any other personal protective equipment (PPE) required according to the product manufacturer's instructions. The use of a disposable gown is also recommended, if available.

- For hard, nonporous surfaces within the interior of the vehicle, including hard seats, armrests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors, windows, and grab handles: clean with detergent or soap and water if the surfaces are visibly dirty, prior to disinfectant application.
- For disinfection of hard, nonporous surfaces, appropriate disinfectants can be found here:
 - [EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products for Use Against Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2](#)[external icon](#)
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application method, and contact time for all cleaning and disinfection products.

- Diluted household bleach solutions, prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date.
Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Alcohol solutions should contain at least 60 percent alcohol.
- For soft or porous surfaces, such as fabric seats, remove any visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
- After cleaning, use products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 and that are suitable for porous surfaces.

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

For frequently touched electronic surfaces, such as tablets or touch screens used in the vehicle, remove visible dirt, then disinfect following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 60 percent alcohol to disinfect.

- Gloves and any other disposable PPE used for cleaning and disinfecting the vehicle should be removed and disposed of after cleaning. Wash hands immediately after removal of gloves and PPE with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, if soap and water are not available. If a disposable gown was not worn, work uniforms/clothes worn during cleaning and disinfecting should be laundered afterward using the warmest appropriate water setting, dry items completely. Wash hands after handling laundry.

REFERENCES

*Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#How-COVID-19-Spreads>

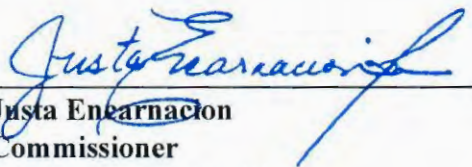
**WHO Operational considerations for COVID-19 management in the accommodation sector

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331638/WHO-2019-nCoV-Hotels-2020.1-eng.pdf>

APPROVED BY:



Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor



Justa Encarnacion
Commissioner
Department of Health

ATTACHMENT A

COVID-19 Screening Questions:

1. Have you been in close contact in the past 14 days with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
2. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
3. Have you been told by a health care provider or public health official to self-quarantine?
4. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, or sore throat?
5. Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
6. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?