Memo Re: Mitigating Respiratory Infection, including COVID-19, Risk When Transporting Passengers in Taxis and Similar Vehicles/Transports

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Passenger’s infection status from disease like flu, COVID-19, or other infections may not be known during a ride, but if preventive measures are in place during all rides the drivers’ risk of getting sick from a passenger who has another disease is low. These preventive measures for drivers include:

- All eligible drivers should get vaccinated against COVID-19, but drivers who are transporting passengers from healthcare settings must be vaccinated against COVID-19 given the population they are transporting. Being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 decreases the chance that the driver will get COVID-19 after being close to someone who has COVID-19. This also means that fully vaccinated individual who do not have symptoms do not need to quarantine after they may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Eligible drivers should also get vaccinated against flu yearly and ensure they are up-to-date on all their vaccines to decrease their chances of getting sick from other infections.
- Drivers’ use a FIT tested N95 (respirator), as able, or similar mask, or a mask with a good fit for every passenger transport. Using a face mask that is properly fitted will protect drivers from being exposed to someone who has COVID-19.
- Use larger vehicles, when feasible, such as vans. Place passengers in the back seat to increase the distance the passenger is from the driver. There are no social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated individuals, but having the passengers spaced as far away as possible from the driver will add an extra layer of prevention.
- Have passengers’ wear masks with every transport.
- Clean and disinfect the car between each passenger transport.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Transport only one passenger or household at a time, especially if transporting to or from hospitals, healthcare, facilities, or other similar facilities.
- Drive with all windows down to increase ventilation within the car during the rides.

By taking these steps, which include staying up-to-date on all vaccines, drivers will have a low likelihood of getting sick from another passenger, including COVID-19 and Influenza.