

Toolbox Talk: Operating state-owned vehicles during COVID-19

Introduction/Overview:

Coronavirus is a respiratory disease mainly spread by close contact (within 6 feet) with an infected person. Many of us are working from home during this pandemic. However, if you have to “go to work” and use state-owned vehicles, there are regulations you need to know and some precautions you can take.

Statistics:

On January 13, 2021, the Commonwealth of Virginia adopted the 16 VAC 25-220 Infectious Disease Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Virus that Causes COVID-19 with an effective date of January 27, 2021.

As of February 16, 2021, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, there were 553,000 cases and 7,037 deaths. We can do a few things to keep the rate from going up.

Talking Points:

Wear masks that cover your nose, mouth, and chin.

Frequently wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Refrain from touching your nose, mouth, or eyes.

Use sanitizing wipes to disinfect surfaces.

Disinfect fleet vehicles after use.

Do not share vehicles if possible.

If you must ride in vehicles with others:

Increase fresh air ventilation by opening windows. If air conditioning or heat is used, do not recirculate cabin air.

Maintain social distancing; if this is not possible, maximize separation between employees by limiting occupancy, staggering seating, using a vehicle that has a higher seating capacity, etc.

Developed by:

If physical separation is not possible, employees shall be provided with respiratory protection, such as N95 masks. If the employer issues N95 masks they must have a Respiratory Protection Program that meets 1910.134.

If employees cannot wear an N95 due to medical issues, then the employer needs to develop another solution that offers protection.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Final Thoughts:

Stay home if you feel ill or have been exposed to someone who shows symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

NOTE: Always promote discussion with the attendees. If a question comes up that no one in attendance can answer, please contact OWC or the Loss Control Innovations consultants for assistance.

Johnny Nugent

Risk Management Specialist

johnny.nugent@dhrm.virginia.gov

804-225-2168

Lee Affholter, COSS, ASC

Loss Control Consultant

laffholter@lccinnovations.com

757-256-3364

Curtis H. Stacy, MESH, ASC, COHC

Loss Control Consultant

curtis.stacy@dhrm.virginia.gov

434-594-8978

References:

Protect yourself when using transportation. (Updated Feb. 17, 2021). Retrieved February 17, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/using-transportation.html>

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