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## **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY (IPAC):**

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A Registered Canadian Charity. *Charity #79007 8299 R0001*

Effective May 1st, 2024, masking is not required but is recommended and may be requested by the driver and/or the patient at any time. Effective July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the health check prior to transport is no longer required.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The VCDS Infection Prevention and Control Policy (IPAC) concerning COVID 19 - Novel Coronavirus and other communicable infections such as H1N1 (the flu), MRSA and Shingles, must be followed by VCDS members when transporting patients to care. The policy aligns with the Chief Public Health Officers mandate and is applicable to the work of VCDS and is intended to protect the patients and VCDS members. This policy will adjust depending on the changes to the mandate by the Chief Public Health Officer with respect to the declaration of the annual Respiratory Season (typically from fall to spring).

Information about communicable diseases can be found online at:  
[www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19).

Approved: May 22nd, 2020

Updated: June 13th, 2022

Updated Dec 1st, 2022

Updated April 13th, 2023

Updated Sept 27th, 2023

Updated May 1st, 2024

Updated July 20th, 2024

## **POLICY**

The VCDS IPAC Policy ensures all Drivers are compliant with the safety needs required in the transportation of cancer patients in order to minimize the risk of infection to patients and drivers.

All Drivers are to provide a copy of their Immunization Record for COVID-19 and must be fully vaccinated\* to offer their driving services.

Patients do not need to be vaccinated.

### **It is recommended that VCDS Drivers:**

- a. Acquire their booster vaccinations.
- b. Acquire an annual Influenza vaccine. (Influenza season is typically declared in the Fall and lasts until April)
- c. Consider getting the pneumo-coccal vaccine. (If eligible)
- d. Consider getting the shingles vaccine. (If eligible)

### **VCDS Dispatchers will:**

- 1.** Screen the patient at initial registration. If the patient is vaccinated record this information in the R/S for the benefit of the driver.
- 2.** Advise the patient that the driver and patient may be required to wear a mask during transport to and from treatment and the driver will provide a mask if needed.
- 3.** Ensure the patient understands that should they experience respiratory symptoms they are to advise the driver immediately.
- 4.** Clarify that if the Patient is in Assisted Living or a Care Facility and the site is on a communicable outbreak, such as COVID-19, all activity in and out of the facility is governed by the Medical Health Officer (MHO). VCDS will not provide transportation until the outbreak is declared over even if the patient is symptom free.
- 5.** Inform the patient that if they require assistance, one person may accompany them during transportation. That individual must comply with #4 above.
- 6.** Advise the patient that it may be necessary to transport other patients in the same car at the same time (i.e., carpool).

## **VCDS Drivers will:**

- 1.** Contact the patient to confirm the ride and pick up time.
- 2.** Confirm the masking requirement.
- 3.** Remind the patient that all Drivers are fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
- 4.** Self-assess their own health consistent with the VCDS Health Screening Questionnaire and advise the Dispatcher if they have any respiratory symptoms and will not drive.
- 5.** Use and maintain the VCDS provided 'travel kit' that includes a supply of non-medical disposable masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, and disinfectant wipes. Drivers will ensure the 'travel kit' is maintained and advise the Dispatcher if replacement components are needed or purchase the components directly with reimbursement provided through the monthly driver expense report.
- 6.** Inform the patient additional patients may be travelling with them (i.e., carpooling) if they have been assigned.
- 7.** Seating will be at the discretion of the driver. Where possible, drivers will seat all passengers in the rear seat to maximize social distancing. Should the patient have difficulty accessing the rear seat, the driver may permit the patient to take the front seat.
- 8.** Maintain rigorous hygiene and appropriate precautions by:
  - a. Washing hands as well as providing the hand sanitizer to the patient(s) before and after each contact.
  - b. Ensure vehicle sanitation is maintained by wiping down vehicle hard surfaces and seats with disinfectant solutions/wipes provided in the drivers' kit (spray aerosols are not acceptable). Wipe down the surfaces prior to and following each patient transport.
  - c. Ensure fresh air ventilation by partially opening front passenger and rear driver side windows at least 2"; if unable to do so, ensure "outside" air is selected.

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**The Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society, a Registered Canadian Charity  
Charity # 79007 8299 RR0001**

### **Privacy and Confidentiality Statement**

The Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society (VCDS) maintains Patient Privacy and agrees to keep all patient information confidential and not to use the information for any other purpose other than in the normal operations of the VCDS.

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