



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY (IPAC):

Cancer patients may be particularly vulnerable to respiratory illnesses, and VCDS is committed to ensuring a safe environment for both passengers and drivers during transport. Health and safety regulations guide our practices and help protect everyone involved in our services.

VCDS monitors official announcements and public health guidance related to Viral Respiratory Illnesses (VRIs). As a result, our transport policies and procedures may be updated as needed to reflect current recommendations and risk levels.

While masking is currently not mandatory, it remains recommended. A driver or patient may request masking at any time, and in such cases, both parties are expected to comply to support mutual safety and comfort.

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

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Updated July 20th, 2024

Updated January 20, 2025

Updated June 1, 2025

Updated January 8th, 2026

POLICY

VCDS Dispatchers will:

1. **Conduct an Initial Screening at Registration.** If the patient is vaccinated, document this information in the R/S for driver awareness.
2. **Inform the Patient of Masking Expectations.** Advise the patient that either the driver or the patient may request the use of a mask at any time, and in such cases, both parties are required to wear a mask.
3. **Confirm the Patient's Understanding of Symptom Reporting.** Ensure the patient understands that should they experience respiratory symptoms they are to advise the driver immediately and refrain from travelling.
4. **Clarify Restrictions Related to Care Facilities.** If the patient resides in Assisted Living or a Care Facility experiencing an Outbreak, VCDS will suspend transportation services until the Medical Health Officer has officially declared the outbreak over.
5. **Accompaniment.** Inform the patient that one person may accompany them during transport if needed and this individual is subject to the same screening and masking requirements as stated above.
6. **Shared Transport.** Notify 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. **Confirm Transportation Details.** Contact the patient to confirm the ride and pick up time.
2. **VCDS Travel Kit.** Use and maintain the VCDS provided 'travel kit' which includes a supply of non-medical disposable masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, and disinfectant wipes. Drivers are responsible for maintaining the 'travel kit' and will notify the Dispatcher if replacement supplies are needed.
3. **Carpooling.** Inform the patient additional patients may be travelling with them (i.e., carpooling) if they have been assigned to the same vehicle.
4. **Passenger Seating.** Seating arrangements will be at the discretion of the driver. When 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 authorize the patient to take the front seat.

VCDS Drivers will: *continued*

5. Hygiene and Safety. Maintain rigorous hand hygiene and take appropriate precautions for the safety of both the patient(s) and driver by:

- a. Washing hands and using hand sanitizer regularly.
- b. Cleaning and disinfecting vehicle hard surfaces and seats.
- c. Ensure adequate ventilation by partially opening front passenger and rear driver-side windows.

6. Adhere to Return-to-Work Guidelines. Drivers experiencing respiratory symptoms are to stay home until the fever has resolved, symptoms improve, and they feel well enough to drive.

Due to the close proximity with patients who are vulnerable and immunocompromised, Drivers are encouraged to wear a mask for up to 10 days following a respiratory illness, even if symptoms have resolved.

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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