**Driver Guidance on Preventing the Spread of COVID-19**

**Background**

Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.

**Disinfecting your vehicle**

**Definitions**

* Cleaning refers to the removal of dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces. Cleaning alone does not kill germs. But by removing the germs, it decreases their number and therefore any risk of spreading infection.
* Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But killing germs remaining on a surface after cleaning further reduces any risk of spreading infection

It is recommended that drivers **clean and disinfect their vehicles daily** with special attention paid to surfaces that passengers and drivers frequently touch; this can include door handles, dashboards, and seat adjustment controls.

**How to Clean and Disinfect**

* **Gloves should be worn while using disinfecting agents** during routine cleaning procedures.
  + - Use the specific cleaning products as provided to you by your department
    - Disinfect all interior surfaces and equipment while wearing latex or non-latex gloves and using disinfectant wipes.
    - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
    - Gloves should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to [clean](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) hands after removing gloves.
* Avoiding contact with your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands is critical to avoiding infection.  Other quick tips include:
  + - Cover your cough,
    - Keep tissues within easy reach, and
    - Keep latex gloves, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer in the vehicle
* Drivers are also reminded to **wash/cleanse their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,** **which is preferred**, or use hand sanitizer whenever possible. Key times to clean your hands include:
  + - After blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing
    - After using the restroom
    - Before eating or preparing food
    - After contact with animals or pets
    - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child)