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

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

### **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 follows the BC Centre for Disease Control directives applicable to the work of VCDS and is intended to protect the safety of patients and VCDS members. The policy will adjust depending on the directives of the Chief Public Health Officer with respect to the declaration of the annual Respiratory Season (typically declared in the Fall and declared over in April).

This Policy reflects the CPHO Directive dated April 6th 2023, which advises all individuals to be aware of the risk and take self-directive steps to ensure their ongoing safety.

[www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19).

Approved: May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Updated: June 13th, 2022

Approved June 21st, 2022

Updated Dec 1st, 2022

Approved Dec 20th, 2022

Updated April 13, 2023

Approved April 14, 2023

## **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.

Masking is not required but is recommended and may be requested by driver and/or patient at any time.

### **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. Inform the patient that the Driver will ask a health screening questionnaire prior to their ride and ensure the patient understands the need for ongoing safety.
3. Advise the patient that at any time, the driver or patient may wear a mask during transport to and from treatment. If masking is required, the driver will provide a mask if needed.
4. Ensure the patient understands that should they experience respiratory symptoms they are to advise the driver immediately.
5. 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.
6. Inform the patient that if they require assistance, one person may accompany them during transportation. That individual must confirm that they will answer the Health Questionnaire to the satisfaction of the driver.
7. 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 advise that they will contact the patient again 24-hours in advance to complete the VCDS Health Screening Questionnaire and reconfirm pick up timing.
2. If the driver or the patient would prefer to continue to wear a mask for the duration of the transport, the driver will discuss with the patient at this time.
3. Comply with the patient's and/or drivers' request to wear a mask if requested.
4. Remind the patient that all Drivers are fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Inform the patient additional patients may be travelling with them (i.e., carpooling) if they have been assigned.
8. 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.
9. 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 surface 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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**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)

**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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# VCDS HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

## Driver Questions for COVID 19:

In the past 3 DAYS have you experienced any new respiratory symptoms\*\*?

**If YES** do not transport. **If NO** proceed to transport.

*\*\* Symptoms may include fever, sweats or chills, diarrhea, cough/worsening chronic cough, shortness of breath, taste or smell, runny nose, headache or sore throat-unrelated to their cancer treatment.*

## IF A PATIENT INDICATES THEY HAVE SYMPTOMS:

### THE DRIVER WILL:

Advise the Dispatcher that the patient has indicated they are experiencing respiratory symptoms and the ride is therefore not able to proceed.

### THE DISPATCHER WILL:

1. Cancel the ride/rides on RideScheduler and contact the patient to let them know that all booked rides will be canceled for 5 days
2. Suggest the patient complete a COVID-19 test at home should they have access to one. The patient may resume service once the patient is asymptomatic from any respiratory illness.

## IF A DRIVER INDICATES THEY HAVE RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS

### THE DRIVER WILL:

1. Advise the Dispatcher that they are experiencing symptoms and are unable to complete booked rides.
2. Consider completing a COVID-19 test at home should they have access to one.
3. If a driver tests positive for COVID-19 they should:

**Begin to self-isolate at home. Contact their Dispatcher to let them know the date of their test and advise that they will not be able to drive.**

- As they are fully vaccinated, they should self-isolate for at least 5 days from symptom onset or 5 days from when they received their test results (if they were asymptomatic at testing).
- If they are scheduled to pick up a patient from a long-term care home specifically, they need to ensure they wait the full 10 days following their positive test and be symptom free before driving patients from these care homes.
- If they continue to experience symptoms (even if mild) beyond 5 days, they are to continue to avoid driving until they are feeling well and symptom free as other viruses may be spreading in the community (i.e. RSV, Influenza).
- VCDS does NOT require a negative COVID-19 test to resume driving service.

### THE DISPATCHER WILL:

1. Cancel the ride/rides on RideScheduler and time permitting attempt to re-assign the ride/rides

*\*Fully Vaccinated is defined as two full doses of the COVID-19 vaccine*