

COVID-19: CAR CLEANING PROTOCOL

Managing a work car between client sites and after use

Rationale for cleaning and disinfecting

SARS-CoV-2 (the virus) is considered to be transmitted predominantly by droplets and contact. It may remain infective on surfaces for some hours or a day or two depending on the surface. However, it is not known whether sufficient virus remains infective long enough on a surface to be able to transmit infection. Sufficient numbers of active virus (the infectious dose) must reach the pharynx, lungs or eyes to cause infection. It appears from evidence this is less likely to occur from a touched inanimate surface (fomite) than from close contact with an infectious case.

Basic relevant information

- When performing hand hygiene with alcohol based handrub ensure sufficient is used so that only after rubbing for 20 seconds it becomes sticky and dries (it's usually 25 seconds before you can continue with other tasks).
- When cleaning a surface use detergent and adequate pressure to effectively remove the visible soiling. After cleaning, application of an appropriate disinfectant for that surface means leaving it in wet contact for the recommended time will inactivate most remaining viral particles to the point where the surface is considered safe for use. A 2 in 1 detergent/disinfectant wipe may be used instead of the two steps for use on a surface that looks clean. Use a new surface of the wipe or paper towel soaked in detergent by folding over for each small surface to be wiped to reduce risk of carry over. Also work from the least contaminated/touched surface first to the most. Wear gloves when cleaning and perform hand hygiene after removing gloves. Waste is general waste unless from a suspect or known case.
- Car interior temperatures in warmer weather may exceed 30C. In addition, direct sunlight can cause some chemicals to alter. Therefore, do not place handrub, gloves or wipes on the dashboard, car seat or on top of the console. Use the glove box or inside console and if the glove box has a cooler, use that.
- It is not good practice to return waste to the car due to possible recontamination. Dispose to client's bin. Only take to the client's residence what is needed so that only cleaned reusable eye protection will be returned to the car in its clean transporting bag. If the client displays symptoms during your close contact with them then discard the eye protection to the waste at the residence and do not attempt to clean. Report your finding and request the client be tested.

Cleaning materials to carry in car

- Cleaning/disinfecting wipes (referred to as 2 in 1 or universal wipes). These can be used to both clean and decontaminate a surface but if the surface appears soiled, repeat with a fresh wipe so the surface is left wet.
- Alcohol based handrub x 2, one to take with you and another to leave in glovebox/console.
- Plastic snaplock bags for waste. Store in glovebox/console.
- Gloves in a snaplock bag to use for cleaning. Store in glovebox/console.

Protocol for car use between client visits

1. Store your personal belongings in the boot. If you use your phone between clients, do hand hygiene afterwards and leave phone in boot (avoid use in car).
2. Before returning to the car between visits, perform hand hygiene and place the cleaned face shield in bag on the car floor.
3. When seated in the car, only touch surfaces as necessary. Take note so you remember what has been touched.
4. Before you sneeze or cough in the car (if you're not wearing a mask), use two tissues to cover up to reduce risk of large droplets falling around you, then do hand hygiene. Phone use and talking in the car promote droplets. Reduce this behaviour.

Protocol for car cleaning at end of session

1. On arrival at your depot/home, remove the snaplock waste bag from the car, open and place on the ground. Open all doors and boot. Remove personal items along with unused and cleaned PPE unless they need to remain in the car. Do hand hygiene.
2. Put a glove on, open wipe pack and leave glovebox/console open, remove 3 – 4 wipes and wipe in order of least touched to the most touched surfaces, folding the wipe over after each small surface. Include the following in the appropriate order: handrub pump, steering wheel, handles (interior and exterior), switches/touchpads, mirrors etc.
3. Place used wipes in the snaplock bag, remove glove and dispose in bag, perform hand hygiene.
4. If any surface looks visibly contaminated, leave it till last. Put on a fresh glove and with a fresh wipe repeat on such a surface and leave wet. All used wipes and gloves should now be in snaplock bag.
5. Perform hand hygiene and with one last wipe, wipe keys. Dispose of wipe to snaplock bag and repeat hand hygiene.
6. Seal wipe pack and store, close glovebox, doors and boot. Lock car and deposit keys to key box or your bag.
7. Take snaplock waste bag to external bin and perform last hand hygiene.

Information provided in these guidelines is intended as general advice only. COVID-19 related information can rapidly change.

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