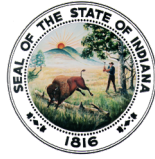




Indiana
Department
of
Health



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

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State Health Commissioner

COVID-19 Protocol for NEMT Providers

(updated March 19, 2021)

*This protocol replaces and nullifies the "Notice to Nursing Facilities and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Providers" in effect since December 14, 2020. **Drivers who do not follow this protocol, including testing requirements, may be excluded from providing NEMT services.***

1. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) drivers must follow CDC guidelines around appropriate PPE and communication of resident COVID status at all times.
2. Vehicle Disinfection: Drivers must disinfect vehicle after each resident transfer in accordance with CDC instructions.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>
3. PPE/Masks: Drivers must properly wear PPE at all times during resident transfers. Masks must meet CDC requirements, which can be found <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>. Drivers may wear medical masks if available. If a driver fails to wear a mask or wears a mask inappropriately, or if a transport raises infection control, safety, or professional issues, please contact Southeastrans Inc. at 888-833-4154. Drivers without proper masks must contact Southeastrans before a transport to request assistance in securing PPE. Southeastrans is responsible for ensuring that all NEMT drivers have appropriate PPE.
4. Driver Behavior: Drivers who have had, tested positive for, been exposed to, or been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, must take appropriate action as follows:
 - a. Drivers who have been exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine for at least 14 days regardless of testing results, and may return to work on day 15 provided they do not develop symptoms and have not had a positive test result during quarantine.
 - b. Drivers who have tested positive for COVID19 must isolate for a minimum of 10 days if they have no symptoms, or if they develop symptoms at least 10 days from symptom onset and they must have improved symptoms and be fever free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).
 - c. Drivers who have been infected with and recovered from COVID-19 within 90 days prior

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to a run do not need to quarantine so long as they remain asymptomatic.

- d. Drivers who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e., have received a complete series of FDA-approved vaccines) do not need to quarantine.
- 5. Notice to Facilities: Whenever a driver tests positive for COVID-19, Southeastrans must give proper notice to all affected facilities. Specifically, Southeastrans, within four (4) hours of learning of the driver's test result, must: (i) if the driver is asymptomatic, notify all facilities served by the driver within two (2) days prior to their positive test, or (ii) if the driver has symptoms, notify all facilities served by the driver within two (2) days prior to symptom onset.
- 6. Resident Status: Nursing facilities are mandated to inform drivers about the COVID-19 status of transported residents prior to all NEMT runs.
- 7. Driver Testing: Except as noted below, all drivers must obtain regular COVID-19 testing with the frequency depending on the positivity rate in the county where the facility is located as follows:

County Positivity Rate for the past week	Minimum Testing Frequency
Less than 5%	Once a month
5% - 10%	Once a week
More than 10%	Twice a week

Drivers must be tested by the facility being served using a rapid test (if available) or, if they choose, at local health department or state testing sites (if available). Scheduled trips should still occur even if the facility cannot provide the test at the time of pickup.

Any driver who tests positive on a rapid (point-of-care) test must immediately report the result to Southeastrans, who will work to provide the required trip with another eligible driver. Southeastrans is also responsible for reporting the driver's test result to the Indiana Department of Health using the agency's REDCap point-of-care test reporting form. Drivers are excused from the regular testing schedule above if they (a) have had and recovered from COVID-19 within ninety (90) days prior to a run or (b) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e., have received a complete series of FDA-approved vaccines).



8. Resident Testing. Residents receiving NEMT must also be tested for COVID-19 according to county positivity, as set forth in the table above. Residents are excused from the regular testing schedule if they (a) have had and recovered from COVID-19 within ninety (90) days prior to a run or (b) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e., have received a complete series of FDA-approved vaccines).

Residents who have tested positive within seven (7) days prior to the scheduled transport should utilize Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service, and not NEMT, to complete trips and reach their appointments.

9. Ventilation. Unless required for safety reasons, drivers should not recirculate air in their vehicles but instead open/crack windows to increase air flow.

Sincerely,

Matthew Foster, JD
Assistant Commissioner & Special Counsel