



COVID-19

Safety Practices for Department Vehicles

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, a number of recommendations have been put in place by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at U of G to ensure the safe use of department vehicles by research teams that require travel to research stations.

Due to heightened expectations of physical distancing, EHS is now recommending the following practice:

- Limit the number of personnel in a small or standard-sized vehicle, including king cab pickup trucks, to **ONE** – the driver.
- Limit the number of personnel in a panel van with bench seating to **TWO**: the driver and one passenger, with the passenger seated on the rear most bench if 2 metre physical distancing can be achieved.
- Cohort pairs of staff who share rides and limit intermixing of pairs who travel
- Load any equipment and wash hands before departure
- If the weather permits, drive with the windows open to maximize the air flow
- If using an air conditioner, the air recirculation button should be turned off
- Upon arrival, unload any equipment and wash hands
- Limit the use of 2 seater and 4 seater utility vehicles – gators, scouts, club cars and golf carts – to the driver only
- Limit the sharing of tractors and other single driver vehicles – such vehicles require regular cleanings between users, as below
- Maintain physical distancing during all aspects of work, including during breaks and lunch at field locations.

Further, the vehicles should undergo regular cleanings of the surfaces touched by any passengers and the driver, such as the steering wheel, gear and wiper levers, door handles and seatbelts.

Everyone should be reminded to follow routine practices of good personal hygiene, respiratory etiquette and environmental cleaning. Recommendations from Public Health Ontario include the following:

- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing nose, coughing, sneezing and going to the bathroom, and before eating.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Surfaces in the workspaces that are touched frequently, such as workstations, keyboards, doorknobs, countertops should be cleaned often and wiped down by employees using an approved disinfectant and/or disposable disinfectant wipes between cleanings.