



## 6. Infection Prevention Practices for Detainee Transfers During COVID-19

[CDC guidance](#) recommends using enhanced prevention strategies during transfers of incarcerated/detained people. Every transfer poses a risk of spreading COVID-19 between facilities and can result in disease transmission and outbreaks.

### 1. Transferring people who are under quarantine or isolation for COVID-19.

- If an individual is to be transferred during an isolation or quarantine period, communicate with transport and receiving staff about detainee status and include what day they are in that process (e.g., day 7 of 10 for quarantine).
- Individuals who are positive for COVID-19 should not be transported in the same vehicle as a non-COVID positive individual.
- Any individual exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should not be transported with non-COVID positive individuals until confirmation with negative test.
- As with all transfers include relevant medical records such as the medication administration record (MAR), COVID-19 treatment in progress, vaccination status, and medical history to the receiving facility before or during the transfer to ensure continuity of care.
- Consult with the NC Department of Adult Corrections should you have questions regarding transferring individuals in isolation or quarantine to the prison system.

### 2. Follow facility protocol for quarantine and isolation for transfer detainees.

- Testing all detainees during transfer before boarding the vehicle is recommended during times of outbreak or other periods of increased risk of transmission.
- Medical screening to include temperature and symptom questions is still a useful tool for use prior to transfers. Anyone with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 should be cleared by medical evaluation prior to transfer.
- Consider an observation period of post-transfer detainees during outbreaks and other periods of high transmission risk.

### 3. Assure everyone on board adheres to infection prevention measures when possible (hand hygiene, mask, and social distancing).

- If social distancing is not possible, consider having all individuals, including staff, wear face coverings while in the vehicle.
- Staff and detainees who will have close contact with a positive individual during transport, should use NIOSH-approved respirators, eye protection, gowns/coveralls, and gloves.
- Everyone should perform hand hygiene immediately prior to boarding and upon exit of the vehicle by a corrections officer dispensing alcohol-based hand sanitizer to everyone, including detainees.

- Vehicles should have tissues and a disposable trash receptacle/bag for detainee use.
- 4. Keep staff safe during transfer.**
    - If possible, have detainees board first, filling seats from back to front, followed by staff. Alternatively, have detainees board from the back of the vehicle and fill seats from front to back. The goal is to minimize the number of people passing seated passengers (including the driver).
    - If possible, place a barrier between detainees and staff.
    - Provide staff with disinfectant wipes to clean hands and/or surfaces as necessary during transport.
  - 5. Make sure there is plenty of fresh air in the vehicle.**
    - If possible, open windows to allow circulation of fresh air. Otherwise, turn on the air conditioning/fan with the recirculate option off and the vents open.
  - 6. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the vehicle after each trip.**
    - The vehicle should be disinfected using an agent that is [EPA-registered](#) as active against coronaviruses in between transfers/trips.
    - Clean and disinfect all surfaces inside the vehicle. Discard trash and perform hand hygiene after disinfection of the vehicle.