Transportation (Car, Van, and Shuttle)

The following guidelines address on-campus shuttle transportation as well as other types of transportation involving University vehicles (ex. experiential learning programs, field trips, etc.)

Overview

All members of the campus community will comply with COVID-related transportation guidelines issued by the URI COVID-19 Task Force, and with verbal instructions given by shuttle drivers and staff. Failure to adhere to do so may lead to loss of access to campus transportation and/or use of university vehicles.

Rhody Shuttle system

All shuttle drivers and passengers must wear face coverings at all times regardless of their vaccination status unless they have an accommodation due to a medical condition. (See URI COVID-19 Guidelines for Face Coverings for more information.) Individual who are not fully vaccinated must also remain 3 feet away from other passengers. All passengers are required to comply with verbal instructions from shuttle drivers or they may be barred from using shuttle transportation.

Disability, Access, and Inclusion student shuttle

The Disability, Access, and Inclusion shuttle will continue to operate on the Kingston Campus as usual. All shuttle drivers and passengers must wear masks at all times regardless of their vaccination status unless they have an accommodation due to a medical condition. (See URI COVID-19 Guidelines for Face Coverings for more information.)

University vehicles (cars and vans)

Passenger vehicle (i.e., car and van) use is no longer restricted due to COVID-19. However, drivers and passengers are encouraged to sit as far apart as possible. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask at all times and are required to sit at least 3 feet apart from others in the vehicle.

Drivers should avoid recirculating air through the car’s ventilation system during passenger transport. Drivers are strongly encouraged to open windows or allow the passenger to lower the vehicle windows, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Course-related trips and field studies

For field trips and field courses that primarily occur outside, transportation is likely to be the riskiest part of the activity. Whenever possible, faculty should attempt to find local field sites that are accessible via walking or biking. When this is not possible, faculty should consider and prioritize locations that are proximate to the University to limit travel time in vehicles. When vehicle travel for field trips is necessary, the following is required:

- All students, instructors and teaching assistants are encouraged to wear masks or cloth face coverings at all times while inside shared vehicles (mandatory for individuals who are not fully vaccinated).
• All occupants of shared vehicles should sit in the same seat in the same vehicle for the duration of the trip (i.e., seats are assigned).
• Trip organizers must provide hand sanitizer and/or a portable handwashing station and require vehicle occupants to wash/sanitize hands whenever they are entering or leaving the vehicles.
• Group leaders should take steps to reduce vehicle occupancy, including using more vehicles than would otherwise be necessary.
• If using vehicle heat or air conditioning, recirculating vehicle air should be disabled.
• Students should be allowed to drive separately in their own vehicles if they wish to do so. Faculty should make sure that students are aware that this is an option.
• Faculty should keep a log of vehicle passengers to assist with contact tracing if needed.
• Faculty should be prepared to make changes to field trips due to spikes in COVID-19 cases.

Note that these requirements also apply to non-University vehicles while being used in conjunction with university activities such as field trips.

Enhanced cleaning

Drivers should wipe down vehicle surfaces after each ride with disinfectant utilizing the product’s written instructions for use. This includes, but is not limited to, high-touch surfaces such as door handles, seat belts, and arm rests. Drivers should wear gloves when cleaning the vehicle.

If a vehicle has been used to transport an individual with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, special cleaning and disinfecting procedures should be completed in accordance with the CDC’s Cleaning and Disinfecting for Non-Emergency Transport Vehicles guidance.