

## SCARC, Inc. COVID-19 Community Outing and Vehicle Cleaning Guidelines

### **Staying Safe While Out in the Community**

Regardless of vaccination status, staff and individuals need to remain vigilant and take precautions while out and about and also upon return back to the program. It is for the greater good of all.

#### **When on Outings:**

Social Distance – Avoid large crowds and poorly ventilated spaces whenever possible. The more people around in a small area, the greater the risk for contracting COVID-19. Keep 6 feet away from those not working or living in the same program.

Masks Usage – Wear a well fitted, double layered mask when on an outing or in public. This should cover the nose and mouth. If drinking or eating briefly, remove or lower mask with clean hands touching the ear loops or perimeter. If removing entirely such as to eat a meal, the mask should be placed on a clean surface such as an unused napkin or better yet in a labeled Ziploc bag. In regards to offsite and overnight visits, SCARC, Inc. residential programs should provide blue surgical masks (one per day away) for the individual to utilize during this period.

Hand Hygiene – Use soap and warm water or hand sanitizer of 60% alcohol or above, for 20 seconds under the following circumstances:

- Before going out into the community
- After using the restroom
- After coughing or sneezing
- Immediately after leaving a public place
- After touching a frequently touched object
- Before and after eating
- After handling garbage or a soiled item
- After returning home
- Before and after touching or removing mask
- Before and after providing personal care
- Before and after preparing food
- Before and after touching or readjusting mask

#### **Upon Return from Outing:**

- Staff to take the temperature of individual returning to the program.
- Individual to shower upon return and change clothes.
- Items brought home from outing are to be cleaned or laundered.

## Cleaning vs. Disinfecting:

Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Whenever possible clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces when out such as shopping carts/baskets or tables prior to eating or drinking.

## Keep these items on hand:

- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Extra masks
- Gloves
- Disinfectant
- Contactless door opener with stylus (pictured below)



## General tips:

1. Avoid touching face and masks.
2. When shopping only touch items being purchased.
3. Consider using the stairs instead of an elevator if possible.
4. Limit contact with frequently touched items.
5. Don't share items.
6. Use opportunities for a teaching and modeling moments for the individuals.
7. Have well maintained nails. Encourage short, non-jagged, clean nails.
8. Be on alert for signs and symptoms of COVID-19/illness in staff and individuals.

## Vehicles

Social Distance – Space out as much as possible (if safe for your particular program).

Masks – Eating and drinking is not permitted in SCARC vehicles therefore, masks should be worn by staff at all times.

Ventilation – Have fresh clean outside air entering the vehicles. This means having a window open whenever possible and select new air flow option. See below:



Cleanliness – This has always been a rule here at SCARC but it is more important now than ever, do not leave personal belongings or trash in the vehicles after returning back to the program. There should be no water bottles, coffee cups, used tissues, napkins, etc.

Disinfecting – After use, each vehicles needs to be disinfected by using either the fogger with Vital Oxide or spray bottle of Vital Oxide.

To sanitize soft surfaces by spot treatment: To sanitize soft surfaces such as fabric and upholstery, hold bottle upright 6-8 inches from surface. Spray until fabric is wet. DO NOT SATURATE. Work into fabric and let stand for 5 minutes. Allow to air dry. For difficult odors or heavy fabrics, repeat application. (<https://vitaloxide.com/pages/user-guide>)

To sanitize non-food-contact hard non-porous surfaces: If not already diluted, mix 1-part Vital Oxide with 9-parts water. Apply Vital Oxide as a one-step cleaner sanitizer (5% organic soil load) by wetting thoroughly and let stand 5 minutes. Wipe and allow to air dry. No rinse required. (<https://vitaloxide.com/pages/user-guide>)

Pay special attention to areas most frequently touched in the vehicle such as the steering wheel, door knobs, window button, radio knobs, safety handles and seat belt fasteners. Be sure the steering wheel is not slippery due to the possible disinfectant residue before driving.