COVID-19 Vehicle Safety Tips for DCYF Providers

There is great concern surrounding the COVID-19 illness and how it impacts our health, daily lives and operations. This is a quick reminder about the importance of cleanliness of vehicles used to transport both your staff and the children and youth in your care. Please take these safety tips into consideration each time you use a vehicle.

The Rhode Island State Fleet Operations recommends that we take measures to ensure our vehicles are clean and at a minimum, we take the time to wipe down:

- the steering wheel
- door handles
- seatbelt buckles; and
- other controls with a disinfectant before and after each use, to limit the spread of illnesses.

If you would like to clean the heating/air conditioning ducts, park the vehicle in a well ventilated area, open the windows, turn the heat/ac blowers on full speed and spray a non-flammable disinfectant in through the outside vent (often located below the windshield by the wiper arms). A few quick, short blasts of disinfectant will help to clean and disinfect the air ducts. **Warning: do not do this with anyone in the car and/or in a poorly ventilated area.**

When pumping gas, please be mindful of fuel pump handles as these are handled by multiple people every day. We recommend that you wear gloves when possible while dispensing fuel.