

Best practice guidance for truck drivers in relation to Covid-19

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Medicines are essential goods and supply to all European countries considered critical.

No restriction should be imposed on the circulation of goods in the Single Market, especially (but not limited to) essential, health-related and perishable goods, notably foodstuffs, unless duly justified. Member States should designate priority lanes for freight transport (e.g. via 'green lanes').

Transport workers, especially but not only those delivering essential goods, should be able to circulate across borders as needed and their safety should in no way be compromised.

These are general recommendations only, which should be adapted to any country/company specificity. Medicines for Europe cannot be held legally liable for their implementation.

To ensure safety measures for the protection of transportation workers in relation to Covid-19, we recommend the implementation of the following best practises:

- All workers in transportation should take prevention measures to minimise their exposure to Covid-19.
- In case of symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms - a cough, shortness of breath and/or breathing difficulties, the worker should immediately inform the company contact person and immediate actions should be taken.
- Truck drivers transporting essential goods should have access to green lanes.
- Extra caution to be taken by the transportation workers to secure their own and cargo safety on the road.

Preventive measures

All workers in transportation should take prevention measures to minimise their exposure to Covid-19.

Truck drivers should receive appropriate instructions and training in line with the recommendations issued by public health authorities¹, such as (but not limited to):

- Keep appropriate distance, at least 1 m between yourself and others whenever possible
- The use of public areas should be kept at minimum. After using any public area preventive measures such as hand disinfecting should take place
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

¹ WHO Guidelines: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

- Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using sanitizing agents (e.g. alcoholic or/and containing chlorine more than 70%).

Truck drivers should be provided with the means to carry out prevention activities, as essential preventive equipment (such as: soap, hydroalcoholic gels, gloves, masks).

Entering the manufacturing site, pre-screening for those who do have to enter (e.g. temperature checks) should be implemented.

During loading/unloading: Drivers are not allowed to enter the warehouse; they should remain on board during all the loading/unloading activities. Dedicated toilets should be available on site, sanitized every day.

Ensure appropriate Information dissemination. Set up a contact point where drivers can directly and immediately inform of their condition.

Additional measures should be taken to identify and protect drivers with increased risks (age, pre-conditions) and ensure the necessary measures to protect them.

Truck driver is recommended to have a daily water and dry food supply available in the cabin.

Actions to be taken in confirmed cases

Truck driver with fever or acute respiratory symptoms will refrain from going to their workplace until their situation is assessed.

In line with the provisions for healthcare personnel, the testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection is recommended for those workers in transport who are assigned to tasks considered essential, with a clinical focus on acute respiratory infection of any severity.

As long as a prevention plan is in place, the personnel are considered at low risk of exposure to any case of probably or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection as long as the relationship with the probable or confirmed case does not include close contact (e.g. remote work with distance greater than 2m).

In case of symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms - a cough, shortness of breath and/or breathing difficulties, the worker should immediately inform the company contact person and immediate actions should be taken.

Crossing borders – green lanes

Medicines for Europe has developed a special logo (Medicines – **Urgent supplies**), as part of initiative to allow high speed transfer of medicines, medical equipment, and all essential components related to medicines. This is to facilitate trucks carrying urgent and essential supplies to cross borders quickly and efficiently, using special designated '**green lanes**', as designated by the European Commission.

Logo should be placed on the visible place, in the front window of the truck when approaching the border control to ensure access to priority lane.

Green lanes should be defined at least 5 km far from the border/customs in order to avoid the generation of queues near the customs.

Extra caution to be taken by the transportation workers to secure their own and cargo safety on the road

We recommend following good practises on security in the transportation. Companies should ensure appropriate training for the transportation workers on how to approach security related issues.

All the security measures that apply under normal circumstances should be respected, such as:

- Trucks should stop only at secure parking under video surveillance 24/7. *Additional resource on safety can be found in the Study on safety parking places: <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/2019-study-on-safe-and-secure-parking-places-for-trucks.pdf>*
- Once truck driver leaves the vehicle, the vehicle should be locked.
- Ensure satellite/GPS truck tracking.

In case of increased security risk, it should be considered to adopt no-stopping policies.

We recommend removing logo **Urgent supplies** when stopping to avoid “unwanted” attention.