

SOP Template: Infection Control and Hygiene Measures During Transport

This SOP details **infection control and hygiene measures during transport**, including vehicle sanitation protocols, personal protective equipment usage, hand hygiene practices, waste management, and disinfection procedures. The aim is to prevent the spread of infectious agents, ensure the safety of personnel and transported goods, and maintain compliance with health regulations throughout the transportation process.

1. Purpose

To establish standardized infection control and hygiene procedures during transport, to minimize cross-contamination, and to comply with health and safety regulations.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all personnel involved in the transportation of goods, samples, or individuals under conditions where infection control is required.

3. Responsibilities

- **Transport Personnel:** Apply all infection control measures as specified in this SOP.
- **Supervisors/Managers:** Ensure all staff are trained and compliance is monitored.
- **Cleaning Staff:** Execute vehicle cleaning according to the protocol.

4. Vehicle Sanitation Protocols

- Clean and disinfect vehicles before and after each transport operation.
- Focus on high-touch surfaces (door handles, seats, steering wheel, controls).
- Use approved disinfectants effective against relevant pathogens.
- Maintain records of cleaning and disinfection activities.

5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wear appropriate PPE (gloves, masks, gowns, eye protection) as per risk assessment or organizational guidelines.
- Don PPE before entering the vehicle; remove and safely dispose of PPE after transport.
- Replace PPE immediately if damaged or contaminated.

6. Hand Hygiene Practices

- Perform hand hygiene before and after each transport using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Carry portable hand sanitizer for use during the transport process.
- Avoid touching face, especially eyes, nose, or mouth, during transport.

7. Waste Management

- Segregate waste generated during transport (e.g., used PPE, tissues) into designated biohazard or clinical waste containers.
- Label and dispose of waste in accordance with institutional and local regulations.
- Thoroughly clean waste collection containers after use.

8. Disinfection Procedures

- Disinfect all surfaces, equipment, and materials used during transport as per manufacturer and safety guidelines.
- Allow sufficient contact time for disinfectants to be effective.
- Ventilate vehicles adequately during and after cleaning to reduce inhalation risks.

9. Documentation and Record-Keeping

- Log all cleaning, disinfection, and waste disposal activities.
- Report any incidents, exposure, or breaches in protocol to the supervisor immediately.

10. Training

- Ensure all personnel receive training on infection control and hygiene measures, including safe use of PPE and emergency procedures.
- Conduct periodic refresher training and competency assessments.

11. Review and Update

- This SOP must be reviewed at least annually or when new guidelines are released.

12. References

- Relevant national and local health authority guidelines
- Manufacturer instructions for disinfectants and PPE
- Internal organizational infection control policies