

# GUIDANCE FOR RESEARCH RELATED OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL

The safest way to travel for off-campus research related purposes continues to be by limiting the number of vehicle occupants to one per vehicle. If two people will be traveling in a vehicle for off-campus research purposes the guidelines below should be followed. Note that individuals in the vehicle with another person who tests positive for COVID-19 are likely be considered a close contact and required to quarantine for 14 days even with adherence to the following recommendations.

## Travel Guidelines:

- Two people are allowed only in vehicles with at least two rows of seats.
- More than two people per vehicle is not allowed, regardless of model of vehicle.
- All employees are strongly encouraged to participate in the Spartan Spit program.
- Each person must wear two masks at all times while in the vehicle.
- The two occupants of the vehicle are to be seated as far apart as practical, and diagonally within the vehicle.
- All vehicle windows must be at least partially open (minimum of 2 inches) to increase air movement. Note that opening all windows (rather than only the driver and passenger windows) provides the highest number of air changes per hour in the vehicle and creates an airflow pattern that most effectively decreases the risk of exposure to the vehicle occupants (1).
- HVAC must be set to external air.
- MSU employees are not required to travel in a vehicle with another person except in a medical emergency.
- All employees must complete the MSU Health Screening each day of work and/or travel.
- MSU employees should not report to work or travel on University business if they are sick.
- All employees must complete [COVID-19 related training](https://ehs.msu.edu/covid-19/covid-19-training.html) (<https://ehs.msu.edu/covid-19/covid-19-training.html>).

## Sanitation Guidelines:

- Users are expected to wash hands or use a hand sanitizer prior to entering and upon exiting the vehicle.
- The interior of the vehicle is to be disinfected after each use following MSU EHS guidance. Instructions are [here](https://ehs.msu.edu/_assets/docs/covid-19-cleaning-nonhealthcare.pdf) ([https://ehs.msu.edu/\\_assets/docs/covid-19-cleaning-nonhealthcare.pdf](https://ehs.msu.edu/_assets/docs/covid-19-cleaning-nonhealthcare.pdf)).
- A hand sanitizer should be used after fueling the vehicle.

## References:

Mathai V., Das A., Bailey J.A., Breuer K., [Airflows inside passenger cars and implications for airborne disease transmission](https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/1/eabe0166). Sci Adv. 2021 Jan 1;7(1) (<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/1/eabe0166>).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/using-transportation.html), Updated Feb. 17, 2021; (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/using-transportation.html>).