

## **DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES**

### **NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING**

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c)(3), (4), and (19) of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code §§ 50-301.07 (c)(3), (4), and (19) (2014 Repl. & 2019 Supp.)), and in furtherance of the District of Columbia's response to the public emergency and public health emergency originally declared by Mayor's Order 2020-045, dated March 11, 2020, and Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020; and Mayor's Order 2022-029 dated February 14, 2022, hereby gives notice of the adoption, on an emergency basis, of an amendment to Chapter 8 (Operating Rules for Public Vehicles-for-Hire) of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles For Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

This emergency rulemaking amends section 816 of chapter 8 to require operators and passengers in public for-hire vehicles to wear a mask to minimize the spread of infectious disease, including COVID-19. While the state of public emergency in the District has officially ended, new cases and variants of COVID-19 continue to spread, threatening the health and safety of individuals, especially those who are immunocompromised. This masking requirement will help to maintain safer transportation options for individuals who rely on public vehicles-for-hire to earn a living and for transportation. This emergency rulemaking is necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of vehicles operators and passengers in the District of Columbia.

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles adopted this emergency rulemaking on May 10, 2022, and the emergency rule took effect immediately. The emergency rulemaking shall remain in effect for one hundred twenty (120) days from the date it was adopted, expiring on September 7, 2022, unless earlier superseded or terminated by a subsequent rulemaking.

**Chapter 8, OPERATING RULES FOR PUBLIC VEHICLES-FOR-HIRE, of Title 31 DCMR, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, is amended as follows:**

**Section 816, STANDARDS OF CONDUCT; UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED, is amended as follows:**

**A new subsection 816.18 is added to read as follows:**

816.18        A public vehicle for hire operator shall notify passengers that the operator and all passengers, except those who are two (2) years old or younger and those who are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition or disability, must wear a mask or face covering that covers their mouth and nose while within the vehicle, and shall not furnish service unless the operator and all affected passengers have complied with this requirement.

Copies of this emergency rulemaking can be obtained at [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov) or by contacting the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, D.C. 20020