



e-Newsletter

CalVans, California Vanpool Authority Newsletter

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Who We Are

The California Vanpool Authority (CalVans) is a public transit agency providing public vanpools to those electing to commute to work in a non-profit manner; this includes agricultural workers and non-agricultural workers. The service provided by CalVans is recognized by local, state and federal agencies as a safe and cost effective method of getting to work in a shared ride vehicle.

How Can CalVans Help YOU?

If you would like to bring the benefits of CalVans to your operation, contact the California Vanpool Authority Toll-Free at **1-866-655-5444**.

CalVans operates Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on major holidays.

The CalVans main office is located at:

**1340 North Drive
Hanford, Ca 93230**

CalVans also has satellite offices in Imperial, Kern, Monterey, Ventura, and San Joaquin County.

Counties Served by CalVans

San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial.

COVID-19

Good Day Employers, we hope this eNewsletter reaches you all in good health and with unwavering resolve to combat our current COVID-19 pandemic. We see many employers increasing their The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) food safety policies and setting of standard operating procedures (SOPs) in and around our vehicles to minimize the risks of contamination identified in your operations. We want to support employers with their Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and remind vanpool groups of the importance of following CDC guidelines for vehicles as well to minimize contamination of crops with human pathogens. We will send out a fleet wide Garmin reminder of the topics we are discussing with you.

According to the CDC, coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product. All Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulated establishments are required to have Sanitation SOP's. This requires maintaining daily records sufficient to document the implementation and monitoring of the Sanitation SOPs and any corrective action taken. Those same sanitary procedures, you are already following for food safety, will also help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a **list of disinfectants <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>** that have qualified under EPA's emerging viral pathogen program for use against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. CalVans has always had issues with vanpools and unnecessarily dirty vehicles. We want to emphasize the need, now more than ever, to keep vehicles as clean as possible regularly.

And, should the need ever arise, we want to ensure that each van can be traced to the field of origin should an outbreak occur. Please help us remind vanpool groups to clean and sanitize all surfaces on a regular basis. Surfaces include seats, door handles, water jug lids, equipment, tools, harvest buckets, toilets and wash basins.

Hygiene and Vehicle Cleanliness

1. Ensure vans are thoroughly washed and sanitized daily
2. Ensure employees that exhibit symptoms of illness are sent home
3. Ensure vehicles do not introduce harmful substances to any riders

Proper Driver Process

Recent changes bring CalVans and employers into compliance effective March 1, 2020. This winter we determined that various Farm Labor Contractor (FLC) employers were submitting the Farm Labor Contractor Employee (FLCE) application (WH-530) to the U.S. Federal Department of Labor without first having the volunteer driver cleared by CalVans. **We understand many employers use CalVans or H-2A and must apply long before the work begins, therefore feel free to clear drivers anytime during the year.**

So what does clearing mean? It means the volunteer drivers Class A, B or C driver's license has been submitted to CalVans and CalVans has checked to make sure the driver has none of the following driving offenses within the preceding five years;

- a. No Driving under the Influence or DUI
- b. No reckless driving
- c. No hit and run
- d. No offenses requiring an SR-22
- e. No more than 2 DMV points, if 25 years of age and older, and;
- f. Must have a perfect driving record if the driver is between the age of 21-25

Additionally, cleared drivers have been added to the CalVans PULL notice system where drivers are being monitored while they are a volunteer driver in the CalVans program.



Online Application

We wanted to bring you all up to speed on a new feature added to the CalVans website. Employers can now apply and update information online at our website at www.calvans.org. Spring will also bring on an additional upgrade; the ability for drivers to apply online. Drivers will have access to English and Spanish video tutorials and trainings to help answer some of the most common questions we receive.

Enrollment of CalVans Drivers

What is the Pull Notice Program? In the interest of highway safety, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) permits employers and in our case, Public Transit Agencies, to enroll drivers (not identified in CVC 1808.1) if the following conditions are met;

1. The driver consents to being enrolled in EPN (completes Employee Agreement).
2. The driver is a volunteer.
3. DMV information is not shared.
4. Information must be immediately deleted from EPN account, when the driver is removed from the program.

Public Surplus



CalVans has vehicles up for auction through the link below. Please have a look if you're in the market for a van, and pass the word to your family and friends. As of the publishing of this Newsletter, due to government shutdowns and reduced service, the website is currently down. Please check back for updates at this link:

<http://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/kingscounty,ca/list/current?orgid=50452>

Employers

Before sending any drivers or their licenses to CalVans for clearance, employers will first want to visit our website and complete the Ag Employer Online Application and the Passenger and Transit Voucher Form at this link; <https://calvans.org/ag-employer-application>. Here are the steps to get driver approval:

1. Contact Transit Coordinator to submit a copy of the drivers license: <https://calvans.org/our-staff>
 - a. CalVans checks DMV record and notifies driver/company if the driver is approved
 - b. CalVans sends a DOT authorization to the clinic/Dr. to take a Class B physical
 - c. Once driver passes physical a copy of the last page of the physical is to be sent to CalVans (Medical Examiner's Certificate). **This is to be kept with driver at all times.**
2. In addition to the items needed to apply for the WH-530, FLC's will also attached the following to apply for the FLCE card for their potential drivers and can be found at this link: <https://calvans.org/ag-notices-forms>:
 - a. *CalVans Driver Agreement #3* on website (6 pages)
 - b. *CalVans Employer Acknowledgement #4* on website (1 page)
 - c. Authorization for DOT exam (1 page)
 - i. WILL BE SENT TO EMPLOYER ONCE DRIVER PASSES DMV AND PHYSICAL
 - d. Once the driver receives an FLCE certificate (blue card) with driving authorization, a vehicle will be issued

In 2020, this process may take up to 14 days if all paperwork is complete. If you have any questions regarding the process please contact your Transit Coordinator.

Social Media

We love it when we get pictures of our vanpoolers working or just relaxing in the van. Please continue to share photos with us, feel free to tag us in any of our social media sites below. If you'd like to recognize a vanpool driver or their group because they go above and beyond, please let us know. We'd love to tell our followers, likers and tweeters about them. We would also add them to our blog and of course share with all employers in our next newsletter. Contact our Marketing and Outreach Transit Coordinator, Gabriela Pacheco at gabriela.pacheco@co.kings.ca.us to find out more.

 [CalVansAgVanpools](https://www.facebook.com/CalVansAgVanpools)

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