



# How to help build a COVID-19-ready fleet with fleet tracking technology

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## Overview

Each business is facing its own set of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. During these uncertain times, it is critical for companies that rely on fleet vehicles to focus on ways to improve efficiency, safety and connectivity. This will help organizations in the long run by keeping employees safe and costs down.

Businesses are finding it tough to maintain a steady revenue as they cut down on certain activities to avoid

the transmission of the coronavirus. An efficient fleet management solution helps drivers work safely and can help build a foundation for a strong financial future.

From monitoring fuel costs and vehicle movement to tracking COVID-19-affected areas, GPS tracking technology and its features can be a helpful tool for drivers, managers and company owners.

## Mark areas, report and analyze with geofences

A geofence is a virtual boundary or perimeter around a physical location. Mapping software allows the user to draw the geofence over the desired geographic area, which supports reporting and near real-time alerts.



### Near real-time alerts

If there has been a reported COVID-19 case in a specific commercial building, fleet managers can create a geofence around that area, designating it as a geographic location that drivers should not enter. Or, a manager could create a geofence around a quarantine zone. If a driver does cross into that area, a supervisor can be alerted almost instantly so immediate action can be taken. This could be a great help for the community as a whole in terms of contact tracing. With geofencing you have your own way to do contact tracing for your employees.

### Reporting and analysis

This capability allows managers to look back at historical reports and analyze which drivers have been to specific areas in order to support contact-tracing efforts.

### Routing

By combining geofencing with routing features, fleet managers can help drivers plot routes that avoid unwanted or off-limits areas in the first place.

# Innovative use cases of DVIRs and mobile forms

Telematics technology can provide customizable driver vehicle inspection reports (DVIR) for pre-trip and post-trip vehicle inspections. These reports can provide vast benefits to both commercial truck drivers and fleet managers.



## **Customizable forms**

Fleet managers can add their own form fields requesting drivers to submit pictures of a sanitized cab, the gloves and mask for each trip and the gloves and masks they restock – all as part of the pre- or post-trip inspection process.

## **Driver health check**

Fleet managers can also use DVIR mobile forms as a simple health check by requesting drivers submit a form at the beginning and end of each day that includes their temperature reading.

## **Open notes field**

Drivers have the ability to add job notes, so they can include a special notation if they have to enter higher-risk facilities or areas like senior care facilities. This helps improve the accuracy of communication between the dispatcher and the field worker, and improves the understanding of the environments to which drivers and technicians have been exposed.

## **Electronic DVIRs**

During the pandemic, it's even more important to stay on top of vehicle maintenance and compliance. Electronic DVIRs can help manage compliance with regular vehicle maintenance, vehicle health and FMCSA or DOT regulations.

## **Inspection scoring**

Some telematics solutions include a walkaround feature to help every driver complete a full inspection.



## Keep track of drivers, vehicles and jobs remotely

Since the pandemic has caused more drivers and technicians to begin their workdays from home versus a company office, fleets need alternatives to in-office job boards and manual scheduling and vehicle tracking.

### Streamlined dispatch and congregation points

Dispatchers can work from home while maintaining control of scheduling, and fleet managers can maintain a comprehensive view of vehicle locations and operations. This includes what time a vehicle started, how long it was at a particular location, how long it took to travel between locations and when and where it stopped.

### Equipment tracking

Many drivers and technicians are taking vehicles home at the end of each day instead of back to the office in order to support and maintain social distancing. With vehicles off-site after hours, it's crucial for fleet managers to maintain visibility into each vehicle's location and status via centralized tracking software.

### Improved schedule optimization

During periods of low staffing or employee illness, fleet managers can maintain efficient schedule prioritization without having to rely on paper-based exchanges. This helps increase worker mobility while helping to reduce the spread of germs by limiting physical interactions and exchange of materials.

### Route replay

Fleet managers can trace route histories to see where drivers and technicians have been. In the event that an employee has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 or is showing symptoms, managers can replay the route to see what geographic areas they recently visited, what specific stops were made and the length of each stop, all to aid in contact tracing.

# Help reduce liability with dash cams

Now more than ever, fleet owners grapple with revenue reductions and the need to achieve greater cost savings. Helping to mitigate liabilities is key to cost control, and integrated dash cams can help.



## Insurance liability reduction

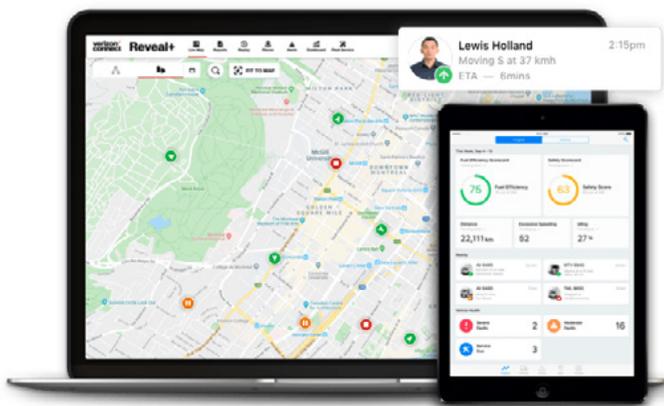
Dash cams can help provide valuable visual evidence against false or erroneous accident and insurance claims that can result in costly payouts.

## Safe driving support

Dash cam video can serve as a driver training tool, helping to reduce accidents that could lead to costly repair and litigation fees. It can also serve to reduce speeding incidents, given fewer cars are on the road these days to slow commercial traffic. With the critical need to deliver goods still ever-present, promoting safe driving behaviors will also help maintain an uninterrupted supply chain.

# Cost savings with the right technology

With less freight being transported and fewer available drivers, fleet managers must leverage technology to help make every penny count.



## Overall productivity

Telematics technology can help streamline the overall efficiency of a fleet, even when grappling with limited resources. From GPS and asset tracking to dispatch tools and dash cam video, features of an integrated solution can work in concert to improve the use of company time and dollars.

## Supply chain integration

Transportation companies are in high demand and must ensure critical goods reach areas of need throughout the supply chain – making integrations that help enhance logistics more important than ever.

## Expense monitoring for ROI

Telematics solutions can help companies with fleets stay on top of their bottom line. This includes monitoring fuel expenses, vehicle maintenance, and driving behaviors, including speeding, harsh braking and rapid acceleration – all of which can have a direct impact on profitability margins and cash flow.



Find out how Verizon Connect fleet management solutions can help you navigate the current crisis. Schedule a free live demo by calling 866.844.2235.