

## of Northern Illinois

## Community/Public Transit Services

Rider's Guide & Policies for *Dial-A-Ride Services* 

DeKalb and Kendall Counties

Last Revised: October 1, 2023

Available in alternative formats upon request

Dial-A-Ride Policies

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# WELCOME TO VAC'S COMMUNITY/PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS!

VAC is committed to providing quality transportation services for all of our riders.

VAC transit services are community and public transportation programs intended to be safe, reliable, flexible, and financially sustainable, while satisfying the various mobility needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and the general public throughout the community.

VAC provides dial-a-ride services (also known as paratransit, door-to-door, demand-response), which are origin-to-destination transportation to residents or visitors of DeKalb County. These programs are shared-ride programs, meaning that multiple individuals' trips are grouped together in an effort to meet all trip requests and improve efficiency.

<u>The following guidelines</u> are designed to clarify the rights and responsibilities of passengers, drivers, and other employees. They are in place to promote safety, efficiency, and effectiveness in the programs. VAC may amend or edit these policies with or without prior notice at any time.

It is VAC policy to operate these services in compliance with FTA ADA rules and regulations. For more information, please call (815) 758-3932 and ask for VAC's designated ADA Officer.

## **TRANSIT SERVICES**

VAC's Sycamore and Sandwich offices operates two main dial-a-ride programs – the TransVAC and MedVAC programs.

- <u>TransVAC</u> is a shorter distance general public transit service. Riders who use TransVAC are generally transported within DeKalb County area. However, TransVAC vehicles do make cross county trips, especially in the Sandwich-Somonauk area of the County.
- MedVAC is a long distance general public medical trip program that transports clients to "out of county" medical appointments, including destinations of Rockford, Rochelle, and the surrounding suburbs. MedVAC trips are limited to specialist medical appointments only, not for routine medical appointments. Examples of medical specialists can be, but are not limited to, Cardiologists, Gastroenterologists, Oncologists, and other such physicians. Documentation may be required to show that these trips are being made for medical purposes.

The only exception is that MedVAC will transport clients to out of county Social Security appointments at the SSA offices in Elgin and Aurora.

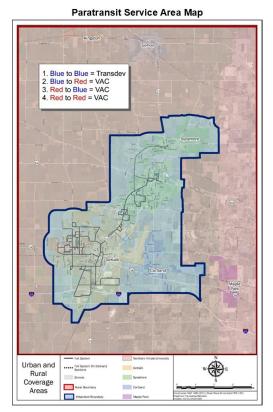
VAC serves all municipalities and unincorporated areas of DeKalb County, IL – space and availability permitting. VAC does not travel across state lines.

Kendall Area Transit (KAT) is the community and public transportation program of Kendall County, Illinois. KAT is a community transit service intended to be safe, reliable, flexible, and financially sustainable, while satisfying the various mobility needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and the general public throughout the Kendall County community. Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is the non-profit transportation provider hired by the County to operate the program.

#### SERVICE AREA

Service area for <u>TransVAC</u> includes all of rural DeKalb County and designated locations outside the County, such as adjacent Kendall County locations out of VAC's Sandwich satellite location.

- The blue shaded area represents the Urban paratransit service area that will be serviced by Transdev; the red shaded area represents the Rural paratransit service area that will be serviced by VAC.
- Passengers whose trip begins and ends within the **blue** shaded area will contact Transdev to schedule a paratransit ride.
- Passengers whose trip begins in the blue and ends in the red, or begins in the red and ends in the blue will contact VAC to schedule a paratransit ride.
- Passengers whose trip begins and ends in the red will contact VAC to schedule a paratransit ride.



Service area for <u>MedVAC</u> is limed to a <u>60 Mile Radius</u> from the center of the VAC main office in Sycamore. Please see map below.

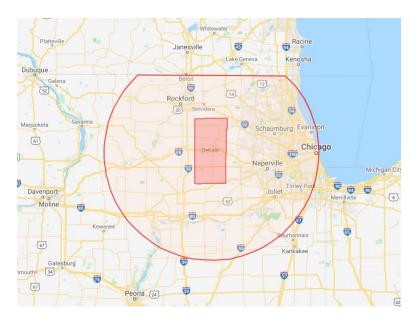


Figure 1: MedVAC Service Area – 60 mile Radius

Some other items to note about the MedVAC service area:

- Trips outside 60-mile radius: For trips outside of the 60 mile radius to VAC
  can transport to the Elburn Metra Station or Aurora Transportation Center.
  Return trips from the Elburn Metra Station or Aurora Transportation Center
  are NOT Will Call (see Will Call Policy). Since schedules are unknow to these
  locations the rider must book a return trip at the time of scheduling.
- 2. MedVAC Last Call is 4:30 p.m. for all trips. If riders wish to utilize the Elburn Metra or the Hines/Loyola shuttle, last scheduled return trips are also 4:30 p.m. Please schedule your trips accordingly.

**Note**: If a rider is delayed outside of his or her control due to a medical appointment running over or a late Metra or Shuttle, please call VAC Dispatch to inform us. We will not leave clients stranded and will adjust the pickup time as necessary to get a rider home.

VAC will <u>not</u> make trips to any destination unless previously booked and confirmed with dispatch. One leg of a trip must begin or end in DeKalb County. VAC does not travel across state lines. Questions regarding areas we service should be directed to dispatchers.

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

M-F 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sat 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with limited-service availability

Sun Closed

Trip times may vary depending on space, availability, and the needs of riders.

## **SCHEDULING HOURS**

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (815) 758-3932

Illinois Relay Service

TTY: 1 (800) 526-0844 or 711 Voice: 1 (800) 526-0857 or 711

<sup>\*</sup>Trips can also be requested through email at dispatch@vacdk.org.

#### **FARES**

TransVAC Dial-A-Ride*	FARE	
Adult, Disabled, and Students	\$1.00	
Senior	\$1.00 or Donation	
Children (ages 5 and under)	Free	

<sup>\*</sup>Senior is age 60+ and will be asked to consider a suggested donation they feel is appropriate instead of a fare.

#### MedVAC Dial-A-Ride

All riders .50 ¢ per mile

Fares must be paid in exact change at the time of each individual pickup. Drivers do not handle cash and cannot make change.

VAC accepts Medicaid payment for medical trips. To see if you are eligible, or to request further information, please contact the VAC Administrative Office at (815) 758-3932.

### **SANDWICH TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Sandwich Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday Closed

Trip times may vary depending on space, availability, and the needs of riders.

## **Scheduling Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (815) 786-6219

#### Sandwich Fares

TransVAC Dial-A-Ride*	FARE	
Adult, Disabled, and Students	\$1.00	
Senior	\$1.00 or Donation	
Children (ages 5 and under)	Free	
Sandwich MedVAC	.50¢ per mile	

<sup>\*</sup>Senior is age 60+ and will be asked to consider a suggested donation they feel is appropriate instead of a fare.

Fares must be paid in exact change at the time of each individual pickup. Drivers do not handle cash and cannot make change.

## **KENDALL AREA TRANSPORTATION (KAT)**

#### **KAT Service Area:**

Service area includes all of Kendall County and designated locations outside the County, including, but not limited to, Aurora, Joliet, Naperville, Plainfield, and Sandwich. To get a complete listing of these locations, please contact dispatch. One leg of the trip must begin or end in Kendall County.

#### **KAT Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (877) 446-4528/ (630) 882-6970

Saturday/Sunday Closed

Trip times may vary depending on space, availability, and the needs of riders.

#### **Scheduling Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (877) 446-4528/ (630) 882-6970

#### **KAT Fares**

	FARES	FARES
	(In County Trips)	(Out of County Trips)
Adult, Disabled, and Students	\$3.00	\$5.00
Senior	\$2.00	\$4.00
Children (ages 7 and under)	Free	

Fares must be paid in exact change at the time of each individual pickup. Drivers do not handle cash and cannot make change.

Fares for Kendall Area Transit have been set by the Kendall County Board in 2010.

## TRAVELING BEYOND THE SERVICE AREA

VAC may be able to coordinate with regional transit agencies if a rider wishes to schedule trips beyond our service area. Riders need to contact the service area provider in the area to which they would like to travel to determine procedures and local travel rules. VAC may then be able to coordinate a mutually agreed upon transfer point with these agencies. However, coordination cannot be guaranteed, but VAC will do our best to work with the rider and other transit agencies.

#### **HOLIDAY SERVICE**

Hours of operations during holidays vary. VAC will make every effort of informing riders ahead of time when VAC transportation hours are affected due to holiday schedules. Please check the VAC website, social media websites, postings on the vehicles, or ask your dispatcher.

#### INCLEMENT WEATHER AND OTHER CLOSURE POLICY

If management determines the weather will likely be or is so severe, or another dangerous situation is so severe, that it is unsafe to operate, then operations will cease for the day in question. Check your local media sources, including VAC social media websites like Facebook, the VAC webpage, and local radio stations and newspapers for information regarding system closures.

#### SERVICE ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

Service is available to the general public. This is a general public transportation service that is especially important for seniors and individuals with disabilities. All riders must first register to ride.

All passengers must be registered with VAC before they can ride. We can provide Registration Forms by email, airmail, fax, or they can be printed online from the VAC website. Registration can also be handled by partner agencies or businesses (such as dialysis centers or assisted living facilities), on behalf of the rider.

## SCHEDULING A RIDE

After a rider has registered with VAC, reservations can be made by contacting dispatch during the scheduling hours. (See Transit Services for scheduling hours).

Non-Medical transit trips can be reserved two (2) to six (6) business days in advance. Medical trips can be reserved up to 30 days in advance. *All transportation is based on space and vehicle availability.* 

*Note*: Reservations requested within 24 hour or less notice may be possible if there is space and availability but should not be expected. It is always best to call in advance to schedule a ride. When scheduling trips, dispatchers will do their best to accommodate all passengers, but some flexibility is to be expected.

Please keep in mind: We operate shared ride services. In order to maximize our transportation resources, two or more people may be transported together if origin

and/or destination locations are within reasonable times and distances, and a scheduled reservation may be adjusted by the office in order to maintain efficiency or accommodate additional passengers. In addition, requests for specific drivers and or vehicles will not be accepted.

When calling to schedule a ride, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name and date of trip.
- EXACT addresses of both pickup and destination locations.
- Reservation time(s) you would like to be picked up, or a time you'd like to reach your destination. (Note: Dispatchers will try to match your requested time as closely as possible but may not be able to due to prior scheduled rides. Please be flexible as we are trying to accommodate many requests.)
- Name of travel companion/assistant, if applicable.
- Please state if you use a mobility device or require any additional assistance from the driver.

Have dispatcher confirm the following information:

- Pick-up time(s).
- Pick-up location exact address.
- Drop off location exact address.
- Special instructions for the driver including requesting assistance.
- Return trip information.
- Cost of trip.

Other things to consider when scheduling trips:

- For medical appointments, it is very important to let the dispatcher know if you have an appointment time, as to make sure you arrive on time.
- Allow for at least 15 minutes after the completion of an event for a return reservation. For example, if your shopping trip ends at 3:00 p.m., schedule a 3:15 p.m. or later pickup.
- Confirm a designated location or entrance when being dropped off or picked up. For example: If you are going to a grocery store, indicate where you are going, such as the North Entrance (grocery side) or the South Entrance (pharmacy side), or corresponding entrances.
- When shopping please adhere to our Package Policy. For more information regarding this policy, please read our Package Policy.

#### **PICKUP AND RETURN PROCEDURES**

Passengers must allow some flexibility in pickup times. The bus can arrive anytime within a window of 10 minutes before or 10 minutes after the scheduled reservation.

Please be ready 10 minutes prior to your scheduled reservation. Pickup and drop-off locations must have accommodations for the vehicle to park and remain within the vision of the driver. In addition, the rider must ensure paths to and from the point of pickup and drop-off are properly paved and kept clear of snow, ice, parked cars, debris, or other obstructions. Because the vehicles are routed prior to pickup times, we may not be able to return if a rider misses their reservation time.

Once the vehicle arrives and if able to do so, the driver will indicate they have arrived, i.e., by honking the horn, knocking on the door, or ringing the bell for riders. VAC also provides an on the way electronic notification to the riders' phone 15 minutes prior to pickup. For areas such as apartment complexes or certain facilities, a driver may not be able to indicate they have arrived. It is the responsibility of the rider to be ready within the 10-minute window and keep watch for the vehicle. After the driver indicates arrival, he or she will wait five (5) minutes. If the rider does not board the bus within five (5) minutes, the trip is considered a "no show," and the driver will leave. (Please see No Show Policy below.)

#### **ASSISTANCE AND MOBILITY**

#### **Wheelchairs and Mobility Devices**

For the purposes of these policies a wheelchair is defined as a mobility aid belonging to any class of three- or more-wheeled devices, usable indoors, designed or modified for and used by individuals with mobility impairments, whether operated manually or powered. Mobility devices can also mean walkers, canes, etc.

VAC will make every attempt to accommodate the rider's wheelchair and/or mobility device. The mobility device must safely fit onto the lift platform and the lift must be able to safely raise the mobility device and its occupant. Service can be refused if the mobility device and its occupant cannot safely utilize the lift to board the vehicle. Drivers are required to make sure that all wheelchairs are properly secured per VAC requirements.

#### **Driver Assistance**

VAC drivers will assist riders, upon request, with boarding and exiting the vehicle and/or to and from the ground level exterior door of the buildings. Drivers are not permitted to enter thresholds of buildings, be it a residence, medical office, shopping center, etc. Exceptions can be made in certain circumstances, so long as threshold isn't a residence. Requests for assistance must be made at the time the trip is booked. The rider must ensure paths to and from the vehicle are properly paved and kept clear of snow, ice, parked cars, debris, or other obstructions. Drivers are not allowed to lift or

carry riders. Riders are expected to carry their own bags and packages, unless they specifically request the driver for assistance. At that point, the driver will happily assist within reason. Please refer to our Package Policy for more details.

Drivers are trained to take a traditional, non-motorized wheelchair up or down one step by themselves. Riders are responsible for providing ramps to manage multiple stairs, or motorized wheelchair devices. Drivers are required to make sure that all wheelchairs are properly secured per VAC requirements.

Please note: Exceeding the manufacturers' lift capacity on agency vehicles can cause damage to VAC equipment and place passengers and staff in danger. *VAC will not exceed manufacturers' lift capacities.* The maximum capacity for all vehicle lifts includes the passenger, any mobility device, medical equipment, or personal items.

When a rider's needs are beyond the responsibility of the driver, or fundamentally alter an employee's function, or that may cause serious disruptions to service, a travel assistant may be required as a condition to use VAC services. Please see VAC's Travel Assistant Policy below for more details.

Drivers are prohibited from accepting tips from passengers, but passengers are encouraged to contact VAC's Operations Manager to compliment and/or comment on drivers, dispatchers, or anything related to the service they received.

#### **Service Animals**

Passengers may travel on all VAC vehicles with a service animal. Service animals include guide dogs, signal dogs, and other animals trained to work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities. If you are traveling with a service animal, be sure to inform your dispatch scheduler when you are scheduling a ride. This ensures the appropriate vehicle is sent, and/or there will be room on the vehicle for you and your service animal, along with other scheduled riders. Drivers cannot make changes for your service animals if you do not make a reservation the day before your ride. Your service animal will not be allowed to ride with you without prior notification. You are responsible to maintain control of your service animal while on board the bus. VAC drivers will not be responsible for taking charge of your service animal. VAC does not permit personal pets to ride.

## **Travel Assistant Policy**

VAC permits riders who need extra assistance to ride with one (1) travel assistant. The travel assistant must be identified with VAC and can only ride with a registered rider. The travel assistant may ride at no charge and must have the same pick-up and drop-

off locations as the rider he or she is assisting. Riders traveling with an assistant must reserve space for them when calling to schedule their own ride.

Reasonable Modification to Policies, Practices, and Procedures VAC is committed to providing safe, reliable, courteous, accessible, and user-friendly services to its riders. To ensure equality and fairness, VAC is committed to making reasonable modifications to its policies, practices, and procedures to avoid discrimination and ensure programs and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. For more information on our reasonable modification procedures, including requesting a reasonable modification or appeal process, please see contact VAC's ADA Officer at (815) 758-3932 or <a href="mailto:info@vacdk.com">info@vacdk.com</a>.

#### **PACKAGE POLICY**

All riders are permitted to carry packages and bags on VAC vehicles. Due to space and time limitations; the number of shopping bags and/or personal items are restricted to 2-3 items that can be easily handled by the passenger and carried aboard without delaying the vehicle. An excessive number of packages and/or bags will not be permitted. Items cannot take up additional seats or cause safety hazards or an inconvenience to the driver or other riders. The carry-on items must fit within a certain space either on the passenger's lap or in front of their seating area. Small hand carts are acceptable.

#### CHILDREN

When transporting children, all Illinois child safety-seat laws must be followed. To find out more about these laws, please call VAC or visit the Illinois Department of State website. VAC does not provide child safety-seats, nor are VAC drivers allowed to fasten these seats. All riders must provide child safety seats to ride if required. Riders over the age of five (5) may ride by themselves provided VAC has written permission and registration form of file from a parent or legal guardian.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

If you need to cancel a ride, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, but no less than one (1) hour prior to pick-up time. A ride cancelled with less than one (1) hour notification may be considered a "no show." For No Show Policy details, see below. If it is determined that a rider cancels scheduled reservations excessively, he or she may be subjected to limited service, as this behavior can be disruptive to other riders and staff.

Cancelations can be taken during transportation hours.

## **No Show / Late Cancellation Policy**

VAC understands that because TransVAC and MedVAC require trips to be scheduled in advance, riders may sometimes miss scheduled rides or forget to cancel rides they no longer need. VAC also understands that riders may sometimes miss scheduled trips or be unable to cancel trips in a timely manner for reasons that are beyond their control. However, repeatedly missing scheduled trips, or failing to cancel trips in a timely manner, is disruptive to our operations and other riders, and can lead to suspension of service for a rider who consistently exhibits this behavior. The following information explains VAC's no-show policy.

#### **Definition: No-Shows and Late Cancellation**

<u>No-show</u>: A no-show occurs when a rider fails to appear to board the vehicle for a scheduled trip. This presumes the vehicle arrives at the scheduled pickup location within the pickup window and the driver waits at least five (5) minutes.

<u>Late Cancellation</u>: A late cancellation is defined as either: (a) a cancellation made less than one (1) hour before the scheduled pickup time or, (b) as a cancellation made at the door or a refusal to board a vehicle that has arrived within the pickup window.

VAC does not count as no-shows or late cancellations any missed trips due to operator error or circumstances beyond a rider's control, such as, but not limited to:

- Trips placed on the schedule in error.
- Pickups scheduled at the wrong pickup location.
- Bus operators arriving and departing before the pickup window begins.
- Bus operators arriving late (after the end of the pickup window)
- Bus operators arriving within the pickup window, but departing without waiting the required five (5) minutes.

VAC does not count as no-shows or late cancellations situations beyond a rider's control that prevent the rider from notifying us that the trip cannot be taken, such as, but not limited to:

- Medical emergency
- Family emergency
- Sudden illness or change in condition.
- Appointment that runs unexpectedly late without sufficient notice
- Inability for rider to get call through to dispatch due to heavy call volume or system disruption/failure.

Riders should contact their dispatch center when experiencing no-shows or late cancellations due to circumstances beyond their control.

## Policy for Handling Subsequent Trips Following No-shows

When a rider is a no-show for one (1) trip, all subsequent trips on that day will **not** be cancelled unless the rider specifically calls to cancel the trip(s). Riders are encouraged to call dispatch to clarify the nature of the no-show and to confirm the need for any additionally scheduled trips.

# Suspension Policies for a Pattern or Practice of Excessive No-shows and Late Cancellations

Voluntary Action of Northern Illinois (VAC) will track scheduled trips, no shows, and late cancellations by riders. VAC will identify riders who, within a 30-day period, have no shows and late cancellations that meet **both** of the following criteria:

- No shows/late cancellations represent 25% or more of the rider's scheduled trips and
- The rider has 3 or more no shows.

Each late cancellation will be counted as one-half (1/2) of 1 no show for the purposes of this policy.

Riders who meet the above criteria will be in violation of the no show/late cancellation policy. Riders will not be penalized for no shows or late cancellations due to circumstances beyond their control or due to carrier error.

When a rider violates the no-show/late cancellation policy, the following progressive action will be taken:

- 1. First violation a warning letter is issued advising the rider that he/she has violated VAC's no-show/late cancellation policy.
- 2. Second violation within a 30-day period a second warning letter is issued.
- 3. Third violation within a 30-day period rider receives a 7-day suspension.
- 4. Fourth violation within a 30-day period rider receives a 14-day suspension.
- 5. Additional violations within a 30-day period rider receives a 30-day suspension.

Riders with questions regarding no show warning letters or riders who feel that a no show/late cancellation was beyond their control or a result of carrier error, are encouraged to call the VAC Operations Manager or if unavailable, his designee at 815-758-3932. Customers who contact VAC to challenge no shows/late cancellations

will be provided with a form to complete and submit. VAC will investigate the customer's challenge using GPS vehicle tracking technologies to determine if the challenge is valid.

#### Policy for Disputing Specific No-Shows or Late Cancellations

Riders wishing to dispute specific no-shows or late cancellations must do so within 10 business days of receiving notification. Riders should contact VAC's Operations Manager, or if unavailable, his or her designee, at (815) 758-3932, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to explain the circumstance and request the removal of the no-show or late cancellation.

KAT riders should contact KAT's Operations Manager, or if unavailable, his or her designee, at (630) 882-6970, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **Policy for Appealing Restrictions or Suspensions**

Riders wishing to appeal restrictions or suspensions under this policy have the right to file an appeal request, which must be in writing by letter or via email to VAC's V.P. of Operations & HR. Please check VAC's website for contact information or ask by calling (815) 758-3932.

Riders must submit written appeal requests within 10 business days of receiving suspension letters. Riders who miss the appeal request deadline will be suspended from TransVAC or MedVAC on the date listed on the suspension notice. Management reserves the right to all final suspension decisions.

## **NO STRAND POLICY**

If VAC picks up a passenger and takes them to their destination and the passenger misses their return trip home, the passenger will need to call VAC to reschedule the ride. Dispatch cannot guarantee a vehicle will be readily available, but VAC will do their best to get a vehicle to the passenger as soon as possible.

## **PASSENGER GUIDELINES**

It is the goal of VAC to operate safe, reliable, flexible, and financially sustainable transportation programs, while satisfying the various mobility needs of the community. Passengers are asked to observe the following guidelines. Failure to do so may result in limited or denied service:

- All passengers must be capable of remaining seated while vehicle is in motion.
- Each passenger must use a seat belt; it is the law in the State of Illinois. If using a wheelchair, the mobility device must be secured to the vehicle in such a way as

- to prevent it from moving while the vehicle is in motion. The lap and shoulder belt provided by securement manufacturer must also be used.
- All mobility devices are required to be secured by the vehicle operator with proper securement devices. A ride will not be denied to a person with a mobility device due to driver's inability to secure the device.
- Passengers cannot demand a change in the schedule once on the bus, or request to be picked up first or last. All changes to the schedule must be made with the dispatcher PRIOR to pickup.
- Vehicle operators will not wait more than five (5) minutes for passengers to board.
- Physical or verbal abuse of the driver, or other passengers (example: shoving, hitting, cursing, excessively loud conversation, etc.) will not be tolerated.
- Personal hygiene, which is consistently offensive to a majority of the passengers will be discussed with the passenger privately and may be cause for further action.

#### **ABSOLUTELY NO:**

- Eating
- Drinking (only bottled water is allowed)
- Smoking or Vaping
- Standing
- Taking non-prescription drugs
- Riding while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Use of tobacco products
- Possession of weapons
- Transportation of any hazardous substance (acids, gasoline, oil, fluids, etc.)
- Improper dress (example: no shirt, no shoes, etc.)
- Damaging or disfiguring the vehicles (exterior or interior)
- Removing any items from the vehicle not belonging to the passenger (example: fares, donations, groceries, blankets, fire extinguisher, supplies, tools, etc.)

Riders who engage in violent, disruptive, or illegal conduct will be refused service. A rider whose behavior threatens or has threatened the safety of VAC personnel or other riders may be denied service. Riders who engage in violent, threatening, or illegal behavior may lose the privilege of using VAC programs.

## **SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE**

In an effort to best meet our riders' needs, VAC offers limited Subscription Service for riders who require repetitive trips from the same origin and to the same destination at

the same time over an extended period of time. Subscription Service riders do not need to call to reserve each of their repeat trips. Subscription Service is for trips to work/training, education, specialized medical care, or other repetitive travel needs. In order to qualify for a Subscription trip, the same ride must be taken at the same time at least once a week and demonstrated over a two-week period of time.

Because the availability of Subscription Service is limited, some riders may be placed on a waiting list. Other restrictions may also apply. All subscription rides are automatically cancelled on the holidays listed in the section "Holiday Service."

Customers who wish to ride on these days must book a demand trip the day before with the appropriate area carrier.

Subscription Service trips requiring changes should be cancelled and demand trips should be requested. To cancel a specific trip that is a part of Subscription Service, customers must call the dispatch office. Riders should take care to only cancel one specific trip and not cancel their Subscription Service entirely. **Failure to cancel trips appropriately and/or excessive cancellations may result in dismissal from the Subscription Service program.** Subscription Service may be placed on hold to accommodate vacations, hospital stays, and other limited periods of time when service will not be needed. Subscription Service is not meant to hold a time slot for trips made only occasionally.

## **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS**

Your input is important to us. If you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding our services or your ride, please contact VAC's operations manager, or his or her designee, at (815) 758-3932. Safety, courtesy, and on-time performance are expected of our employees, and we need to know when the expectation has not been met.

## **ABOUT VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER**

Originally incorporated in 1974, the Voluntary Action Center began as a volunteer clearinghouse matching volunteers to needs in the community. After becoming aware of a lack of access to goods and services in the community for seniors and persons with disabilities, VAC began providing door-to-door transportation services with one van and several volunteer drivers. VAC provided 7,111 rides in that first year of operation. Today, VAC provides over 200,000 trips annually! In 2009, VAC partnered with Fox Valley Older Adult Services to provide more local transportation services to the residents of Sandwich/Somonauk region.

VAC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members throughout the community. Our mission is commitment to providing high quality services that address the basic transportation needs of the communities we serve.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Address: VAC Main Office VAC Sandwich Office Kendall Area Transit

1606 Bethany Road 1406 Suydam Road 109 W. Ridge Street

Sycamore, IL 60178 Sandwich, IL 60548 Room 002

Yorkville, IL 60560

Phone: 1 (815) 758-3932 1 (815) 787-6219 (630) 882-6970

Toll Free:

(877) IGO-4KAT (877) 446-4528

Fax: 1 (815) 758-0202 1 (815) 786-2696 1 (815) 981-4187

Illinois Relay Service

TTY: 1 (800) 526-0844 or 711 Voice: 1 (800) 526-0857 or 711

Website: http://vacdk.org

www.kendallareatransit.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/VACNorthernIL

https://www.facebook.com/VACKAT

Twitter: https://twitter.com/VACNorthernIL

https://twitter.com/VACKAT

Email: info@vacdk.org; dispatch@vacdk.org

Pursuant to federal laws (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Environmental Justice Regulations) and in accordance with applicable state and local laws: VAC grants all citizens equal access to its transportation services.