



Infection prevention and control information for public and private transport

This information is for the management and cleaning of vehicles including cars, taxis, ride-hail services, trains, buses, trams or community vans used for transportation of all people, during the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

General advice to drivers of public transport

Drivers of any public transport are advised to:

- not attend work if you are unwell, including with symptoms of a cold or flu
- perform regular hand hygiene throughout your shift e.g. at the start and end of your shift, before and after meal breaks and after using the toilet. Washing hands with soap and water, then drying hands thoroughly or using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser are both effective ways to clean your hands.
- members of the public, who are suspected or known cases of COVID-19, or are currently in self-quarantine due to return travel from outside of WA or undergoing testing for COVID-19 should not be using public transport
- public transport services may consider an increase in the frequency of cleaning of vehicles.
- cleaning of vehicles should be with a detergent and disinfectant cleaning product/wipes
- wipe all surfaces thoroughly, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces such as handles, rails and buttons
- vehicles with fabric seating should have a scheduled shampoo/steam cleaning program.

Reducing infection risks on public transport

Physical distancing is ensuring there is space between yourself and others. This is an effective way of reducing transmission of infections. Although public transport and associated stations and platforms are exempt from physical distancing recommendations, transport staff and passengers are still encouraged to maintain physical distancing where possible

Other steps to reduce the risk of catching an infection while travelling on public transport include:

- staying home when unwell
- practising regular hand hygiene before and after your journey with the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- practising good cough and sneeze etiquette. If you sneeze or cough into a tissue, dispose of the tissue immediately and sanitise your hands. Otherwise cough or sneeze into your elbow
- avoid touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth as much as possible, especially when your hands are not clean.

Special circumstances: Transporting known or suspected cases of COVID-19 or people being transported to undertake self-quarantine

When transportation is required for known or suspected cases of COVID-19 or to transfer passengers to hotels or private residences to self-quarantine, drivers are required to take the following additional measures to protect themselves from any risk of infection.

- The driver must have access to alcohol-based hand sanitiser and use it before boarding the vehicle, and after putting on and removing a surgical mask.
- The driver is to wear a surgical mask for the duration of the journey. Drivers are to avoid touching the front of the mask once it is securely in place. The mask is to be removed and disposed of at the end of the journey or if becomes moist or damaged.
- The driver should not have contact with any passengers or their luggage. Passengers that require assistance boarding or leaving the vehicle or cannot manage their own luggage will be assisted by Department of Health staff, not the driver.
- All passengers are to perform hand hygiene prior to boarding the vehicle.
- The passengers are all to wear a surgical mask.
- The passengers should not be sitting within 1.5 metres of the driver. If this cannot be achieved, the passenger must sit as far away from the driver as possible.
- Ventilation systems should be on fresh air settings and windows open slightly if appropriate.
- At the completion of the journey, the vehicle should be cleaned as per regular cleaning protocols with a detergent/disinfectant based cleaning product.

In the event that a private vehicle, hospital transport or a Department of Health organised transport option cannot be provided when patients are required to travel from hospital to their home/hotel or hotel to home, taxis and ride hail services can be used as a last resort for transportation of positive COVID-19 cases and those in hotel quarantine or required to self-quarantine.

For taxi's and ride-hail services, the following measures should be observed:

- a large vehicle should be chosen where available to provide adequate space between the driver and the passenger. The passenger should sit as far away as possible from the driver.
- the driver should wear a surgical mask and take care not to touch the front of the mask once it is securely in place
- the passenger is to wear a surgical mask
- the passenger is to manage their own luggage wherever possible. If assistance is required, the driver should wear gloves and remove and perform hand hygiene immediately after assisting with luggage
- the passenger is to perform hand hygiene prior to entering the vehicle
- encourage the passenger to use contactless payment options
- ventilation systems should be on fresh air settings and windows open slightly if appropriate
- at the end of the journey, the driver must clean the vehicle with a detergent and disinfectant based cleaning product, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces such as door handles, seat belts and seats. Dispose of any PPE / disposable cleaning equipment and perform hand hygiene.

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