Information for public & private transport (cars, taxis, ride-hail services, trains, buses, community vans, trams)

This information is for the management and cleaning of vehicles used for transportation of all people, during the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

General advice to drivers of public transport
Drivers of public transport, including taxis, ride-hail services, trains, buses and trams, are advised:

- Do not attend work if you are unwell, including symptoms of a cold or flu.
- You do not need to wear a mask if you are healthy.
- Suspected cases of COVID-19 have been asked to isolate themselves and should not be catching public transport.
- Once passengers have disembarked and the journey is complete, you are not required to take any further measures.
- You should employ standard cleaning practices at the end of each shift, as part of good hygiene practice.
- In the event of a passenger spreading droplets (such as sneezing or coughing), clean surfaces with a detergent and disinfectant so that the potential spread of infection can be minimised.
- Public transport services that service hospitals may consider an increase in the frequency of cleaning of these vehicles.
- Cleaning of these 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.

Advice to passengers using public transport
To help limit the spread of coronavirus, you should avoid using public transport in the following circumstances:

- If you have arrived into Western Australia from interstate or from overseas, or have been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of arrival or date of contact and therefore are not permitted to use public transport.
- If you are unwell.
Special circumstances: Transporting known or suspected cases of COVID-19

When transportation is required for known or suspected cases of COVID-19, private vehicles are the preferred method of transportation. In the event that a private vehicle is not available, drivers that are transporting known or suspected cases of COVID-19 may be required to take additional measures to protect themselves from any risk of infection.

For drivers transporting passengers between cruise ships, airports and hotel accommodation for isolation purposes, the following measures should be observed:

- The driver should wear gloves and a surgical mask and take care not to touch the front of the mask once it is securely in place. The gloves and mask are to be removed and disposed of at the end of the journey.
- The passengers should be wearing surgical masks.
- The passengers should not be sitting within 1.5 metres of the driver.
- All passengers are to perform hand hygiene prior to boarding the bus.
- The driver must have access to alcohol-based hand sanitiser and use it before and after putting on and removing gloves and surgical mask.
- 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.
- 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.

If a private vehicle 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 are to be used as a last resort for transportation of positive COVID-19 cases.

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 to the driver.
- The driver should wear gloves and a surgical mask and take care not to touch the front of the mask once it is securely in place.
- The passenger should wear a surgical mask.
- The passenger is to manage their own luggage.
- The driver should perform hand hygiene before and after putting on and removing gloves and mask.
- Use contactless payment options.
- Ventilation systems should be on fresh air settings and windows open slightly if appropriate.
- After 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.
- Following cleaning, the driver should dispose of any PPE used (gloves and mask) and perform hand hygiene.