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## Guidelines

# Public Transport During Covid-19 Outbreak

### Objective

To provide public with the guidelines regarding social distancing and to reduce the risk of becoming infected during outbreak by breaking the transmission chain of epidemic through person-to-person contact.

### Rationale

Preventive measures are needed to halt/limit the spread of disease while easing the travelling by public transport. Such measures can help to reduce the infection transmission and unnecessary burden on critical care facilities.

### Instructions

It is recommended to stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact. To help keep yourself and your fellow passengers safe, you should not travel if you:

- are experiencing any coronavirus symptoms
- are self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms or sharing a household with somebody with symptoms
- are clinically extremely vulnerable, especially if you are at higher risk of severe illness.

However, if travelling is required, prefer off-peak hour travelling. There are instructions that should be considered while travelling.

### Bus Stop

At bus stop, following preventive measures should be taken

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially when you are in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your hands to eyes, nose, and mouth.



- It is recommended to keep a 2 meter distance from other people, where possible. Where this is not possible you should keep the time you spend nears others as short as possible and avoid physical contact<sup>1</sup>.
- Wear a face mask (disposable/ cloth face covering) while sitting in a public transport or at bus stop. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Be aware of the surfaces you touch. Be careful not to touch your face.
- Avoid unnecessary travelling of senior citizens and children.

#### **Ticket Station:**

- Maintain social distancing of 2 meter.
- Where possible, book travel online through transport provider's ticketing application or website. Consider contactless payment to buy tickets.
- Passengers should bring exact change for the bus fare.
- Wear a face mask (disposable/ cloth face covering).
- Avoid touching the surfaces

#### **Within Bus:**

##### ***Instructions for Bus Cleanliness***

- All scheduled buses, before they are allowed to be used for public service should be disinfected properly and ensure that all frequently touched parts in the bus such as seat handles, railings etc are sanitized.
- Buses should not commence moving until passenger are properly seated and passengers should not get up from their seating until bus has stopped for alighting so that they are not required to touch handrails and seats for support.

##### ***Instructions for Bus crew***

- Bus crew should wear approved personal protective equipment and maintain the required hygiene at all times.
- Bus Stop managers to check body temperature of passengers
- Regular instructions to be issued to all transport operation staff
- Notices about COVID-19 prevention, health and safety guidelines should be displayed in each vehicle for public awareness.
- Notices on wearing face masks properly to be displayed graphically emphasizing that improper use increases the risk of infection from touching the face more often.

##### ***Instructions for Passengers***

Treat transport staff with respect and follow instructions from your transport operator.

- Wait for passengers to get off first before you board
- Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance with other passengers when seated
- Avoid sitting or standing within 6 feet of the bus driver seat.
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol.
- Wear face mask (disposable/ cloth face covering).
- Avoid touching the surfaces often touched by other passengers

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<sup>1</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>)



### ***Instructions for Bus Air Conditioning***

- Keeping windows open, when possible
- Increasing ventilation by adjusting air conditioning
- The air conditioner should be equipped with air purification and disinfection

*The Ministry acknowledges the contribution of Ms Javeria Yousaf and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.*

*Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international & national recommendations and best practices.*

### **References**

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