

GUIDANCE FOR USE OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

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This guidance developed by the Public Health Section of DHMOSH provides guidance on the use of personal and public transportation including personal vehicles, rideshares, taxis, etc in a setting of COVID-19 community transmission. This guidance is adapted from CDC’s guidance on the same topic. For any questions, contact DHMOSH Public Health Section at dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org.

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PUBLIC TRANSIT

Follow all the general principles available in the **Annex**, plus the following:

STAY UP-TO-DATE

- Always plan your trip ahead and be ready to alter your plans according to the new situation. Check with local transit authorities for the latest information on changes to services and procedures, especially if you might need additional assistance.

AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES

- Limit touching frequently touched surfaces such as kiosks, digital interfaces such as touchscreens and fingerprint scanners, ticket machines, turnstiles, handrails, restroom surfaces, elevator buttons, and benches as much as possible.
 - If you must touch these surfaces, as soon as you can, wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or rub your hands with sanitizer containing 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth until hand hygiene supplies are available.
- Use touchless payment and no-touch trash cans and doors when available. Exchange cash or credit cards by placing them in a receipt tray or on the counter rather than by hand, if possible.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- When possible, consider traveling during non-peak hours when there are likely to be fewer people.
- Follow social distancing guidelines by staying at least 6 feet (2 meters) from people who are not from your household. For example:
 - Avoid gathering in groups, and stay out of crowded spaces when possible, especially at transit stations and stops.
 - Consider skipping a row of seats between yourself and other riders if possible.
 - Enter and exit buses through rear entry doors if possible.
 - Look for social distancing instructions or physical guides offered by transit authorities (for example, floor decals or signs indicating where to stand or sit to remain at least 6 feet / 2 meters apart from others).

PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE

- After you leave the transit station or stop, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- When you arrive at your destination, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

RIDESHARE, TAXI, LIMO FOR-HIRE VEHICLE PASSENGERS

Follow all the general principles available in the **Annex**, plus the following:

ENSURE DRIVER IS WEARING A MASK

- The driver of the vehicle should wear a mask. If the driver refuses to wear a mask, refuse service and call a new driver.



AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES

- Avoid contact with surfaces frequently touched by passengers or drivers, such as the door frame and handles, windows, and other vehicle parts. In circumstances where such contact is unavoidable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol as soon as possible afterwards.
- Avoid accepting offers of free water bottles and avoid touching magazines or other items that may be provided for free to passengers.
- Use touchless payment when available.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Limit the number of passengers in the vehicle to only those necessary.
- Avoid pooled rides or rides where multiple passengers are picked up who are not in the same household.
- Sit in the back seat in larger vehicles such as vans and buses so you can remain at least six feet away from the driver.

IMPROVE VENTILATION

- Ask the driver to improve the ventilation in the vehicle if possible — for example, by opening the windows or setting the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode.

PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE

- After leaving the vehicle, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- When you arrive at your destination, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

SHARED BIKES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, AND OTHER MICRO-MOBILITY DEVICES

Follow all the general principles available in the **Annex**, plus the following:

CLEAN AND DISINFECT SURFACES

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the device (e.g., handlebars, gears, braking handles, locks etc.) or shared equipment before you use it. Use disinfecting wipes, if available.
- Use touchless payment when available and if applicable.

PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE

- After completing your trip, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

PERSONAL VEHICLES

Follow all the general principles available in the **Annex**, plus the following:



CLEAN AND DISINFECT SURFACES

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly (for example, the steering wheel, gear shift, door frame/handles, windows, radio/temperature dials, and seatbelt buckles).
- When using parking meters and pay stations, consider using alcohol wipes to disinfect surfaces or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol after use. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as soon as it is possible.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Consider limiting the number of passengers in the vehicle to only those necessary (for example, choose one or staff members who are not at higher risk for severe illness to run the essential errands).

IMPROVE VENTILATION

- Improve the ventilation in the vehicle if possible (for example, open the windows or set the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode).

PERSONAL BIKES, WALKING, WHEELCHAIR ROLLING, OR MOVING WITH MOBILITY ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Follow all the general principles available in the **Annex**, plus the following:

AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES

- Limit touching surfaces that are frequently touched by other people, such as pedestrian or cyclist call buttons, as much as possible. If you must touch these surfaces, as soon as you can, wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Follow social distancing guidelines by staying at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other cyclists or pedestrians who are not from your household. For example:
 - Avoid crowded and/or narrow routes where it might be difficult to maintain 6 feet (2 meters) of distance between yourself and other cyclists or pedestrians.
 - If you see someone moving towards you, stay as far to your right if possible or safely cross the street to avoid passing within 6 feet (2 meters) of another person.
 - When passing others, leave as much space as possible.

WEAR MASKS

- Wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when social distancing is difficult.
- Even if you do not expect to have close contact (within 6 feet / 2 meters) with other people during your trip, carry a mask so you are prepared.

PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- After completing your trip, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid spitting or clearing of the nasal passages in public.



ANNEX

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ALL TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION

PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Before you leave, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Once you reach your destination, wash your hands again with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol as soon as possible upon arrival.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and wash your hands immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- During travel, try to keep at least 6 feet (2 meters) from people who are not in your household — for example, when you are waiting at a bus station or selecting seats on a train. If you must share transportations with others, either in a private vehicle or in a taxi or rideshare, it is best to share with the same group of individuals, preferably only with members of the same household.

WEAR MASKS

- Wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when social distancing is difficult.
 - Note: Masks should **not** be placed on:
 - Babies and children younger than 2 years old
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- Masks are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
- People who are sick or have recently had a close contact (closer than 6 feet / 2 meters for at least 15 minutes) to a person with COVID-19 should avoid using transportation options that may put them in close contact with others (e.g., public transit, rideshare, or taxis) and should stay home except to seek medical care.
- If you are sick and public transportation is your **only** option when seeking medical care, wear a mask over your nose and mouth, practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet / 2 meters away from other people as much as possible), and practice hand hygiene, including using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available. For non-emergency medical care, make an appointment ahead of time and, if using public transportation, travel during non-peak hours, if possible.

HAVE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES

- Before traveling, pack sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol (in case you are unable to wash your hands at your destination).
- Bring your mask to wear at times when physical distancing is difficult—for example, while riding on a train or bus, waiting at a rest stop, or riding in a car with people outside your household. Consider bringing a spare mask in the event your masks gets wet or soiled.



PROTECT PEOPLE AT RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS FROM COVID-19

- Individuals who have an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should consider the risks and benefits of non-essential travel.
- As an individual following preventative measures, you are protecting those at higher risk of severe illness that may need to travel (i.e. doctors' appointments, essential errands, etc.)