

Commuting safely



#UnityinAction

Taxis lead the commuting stakes

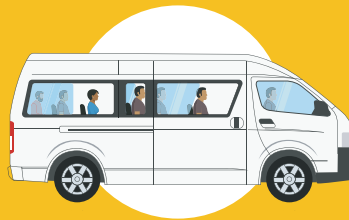
Millions of South Africans must board commuter trains, taxis, e-hailed taxis, and buses for a journey that can take several hours each day.

The following precautions are regulated and advised for commuter travel and taxis carrying passengers long distances, defined as more than 200 kilometres.(As of March 1, 2021):

For taxis and buses



- Taxis and buses may not carry more than 70% of the licensed capacity for long-distance travel.



- Both taxis and buses may carry 100% of the licensed capacity for any trip under 200km.



- A driver, owner or operator of public transport may not allow anyone not wearing a face mask to board or travel in a public transport vehicle owned or operated by him or her.

Keeping safe on public transport



- Older people and those with pre-existing health issues should avoid travelling in crowded buses and taxis.



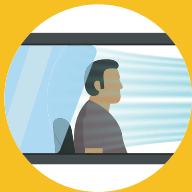
- If you can, travel outside peak-hour periods to limit contact with other people and crowded vehicles.



- Keep social distancing (1,5metres) in queues.



- Buy a hand sanitiser and travel with it, and use it during and after a journey.



- Keep windows open to ensure better airflow inside the taxi, bus or train carriage.



- Avoid touching your face, especially around the eye and mouth area.



- Wear a mask while waiting to travelling.



- If travelling by train, try to travel in carriages that are not crowded.



- Remember that the further you travel, the higher the risk of being infected.



- If you have to stand in a bus or train and need to hold on to a pole or strap, use your sanitiser first to clean your hands as the virus can stick to surfaces.

Questions



Why are open windows in public transport so important?

Fresh air blowing in and out of open windows allows germs and viruses to be expelled from a vehicle. This is important when people sneeze or cough in public transport. The more ventilation there is, the less the possibility of contracting the virus.



What precautions should I take when travelling in a taxi, like Uber, that I have e-hailed?

- Wear a mask during the trip and avoid touching surfaces.
- Use personal sanitiser to sterilise your hands before opening the door and repeat this in the taxi.
- If the driver is not wearing a mask, ask him or her to do so.



Are cars safer than public transport when it comes to the risk of COVID-19. Several friends and I share a car when we commute to work. What should we be doing?

Cars are safer to travel in as the number of passengers is reduced. The safest would be a vehicle that is carrying just a driver. By agreement, all passengers in the shared car should wear masks.

Also, think about:



- Limiting the number of passengers in the car as far as possible.



- Sit in the back seat in larger vehicles.



- Improve the ventilation by opening windows or putting the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode.



- Use a hand sanitiser and avoid contact with surfaces that are often touched by the driver or other passengers (door frame, handles, windows).



- Avoid eating and drinking in the car so that your mask stays in place for the entire trip.