

GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>

This document has been developed to support public transit providers in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among drivers, other workers, and passengers. The guidance outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to public transit settings.

This guidance is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Operators (Drivers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wash hands frequently or use alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available.• Cough or sneeze into the elbow, away from others, and sanitize hands afterwards. Avoid touching the face with unwashed hands.• Operators should launder clothes between shifts.• Self-screen for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose before starting work. If an operator has any of these symptoms, they should not work. They should stay home and away from others, and use Alberta Health Services' online COVID-19 Self Assessment or call 811 for testing.• Transit providers should have<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A physical barrier or shield installed between the operator and the passengers.○ If it is not possible to have a physical barrier or shield installed, operators should wear a mask during their duties. Guidance is available here.• When assisting paratransit passengers or wheelchair users within 2 metres, both the client and the operator should wear a mask and practice hand hygiene before and after assisting the passengers to minimize the risk of transmission.• Avoid touching surfaces often touched by passengers.
Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As it can be difficult to maintain physical distancing on board public transit, all passengers who are able to wear masks should be strongly encouraged to do so.• Encourage passengers to spread out, where spacing allows. Although practicing physical distancing at the recommended 2 metres between passengers may be especially challenging on public transit during peak hours, passengers should be encouraged to practice physical distancing between themselves and others where possible.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage should be prominently displayed on board, with the following messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passengers are strongly encouraged to wear masks on public transit, where possible, as maintaining 2 metres of physical distance between passengers may be challenging on transit vehicles. ○ Passengers should spread out while on board. ○ Passengers may want to consider waiting for the next bus or train if the current vehicle is too crowded. • All public facing transit workers should practice physical distancing from others, and consider wearing masks when going into public areas.
<p>Messaging for passengers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signage throughout transit facilities and vehicles addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. ○ Practice physical distancing from other passengers and the operator. ○ Standing away from the driver to give the driver space. ○ Encouraging mask use when physical distancing is challenging such as on crowded buses, trains, stops, or stations. ○ Passengers with symptoms must stay home and should not take transit. ○ Consider making trips during off-peak hours. ○ Use the doors indicated to get on and off the vehicle.
<p>Cleaning and Disinfection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly clean and disinfect transit vehicles, and frequently sanitize high touch surfaces such as handles, poles, straps, and buttons. • Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting transit facilities, stations, and equipment, particularly in high traffic locations or high touch surfaces, such as washrooms, escalators, railings, buttons, fare machines, door handles and push bars. • It is recommended that cleaning logs be kept.
<p>Prevention – Environmental and Administrative Controls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All vehicles should be equipped with a physical barrier, such as a shield, between the operator and the passengers. If this is not possible, operators should wear a mask during their duties. • Encourage payment and validation of the ticket, visually or without contact. If this is not possible, provide a procedure for safe handling and practice hand hygiene. • Recirculation of air in vehicles should be avoided and ventilation maximized. Open windows when practical. • Operators should have access to Health Canada approved disinfectant wipes and/or other disinfection supplies (such as gloves to be used with wipes, if indicated by manufacturer’s instruction for use). • Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces like the steering wheel, seatbelt, console, and other frequent touch between shift or operator changes.
<p>Bus Stops and Waiting Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, display signage that encourages passengers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ avoid crowded bus stops and waiting areas ○ wear a mask if they are able ○ keep a distance of 2 meters from others while waiting.