

Background

- This guidance will assist the transportation sector, including transport authorities, companies, independent or informal drivers, and passengers, in addressing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for different outbreak phases as defined in the Africa CDC Stepwise Response¹.
- This guidance complements the Africa CDC Guidance for Community Physical Distancing², which includes further details on how to engage communities, implement physical distancing, and support organisations, and the Africa CDC Guidance for Community Use of Face Masks.³
- COVID-19 can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are released when an infected person coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. People can catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from an infected person or by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.
- People living with or working closely with a person who is ill with COVID-19 are at highest risk of getting infected. After a person has been infected, it may take 2–14 days until they develop any symptoms.
- Transportation can facilitate the spread of COVID-19 through providing a confined setting within which people congregate (e.g. vehicles and terminals) and through enabling contact between people in different geographical areas (e.g. between towns or between residential areas).

1 <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

2 <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

3 <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

Recommendations

All outbreak stages (Phases 0-4)



Passengers and staff should wash their hands before and after they have been on public transport, use non-contact greetings and cough into a tissue or elbow.



Passengers and staff should not travel if they are feeling unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, even if these symptoms are mild.



Ensure procedures are in place in case someone becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, at a transport hub or on their journey, including:



a designated place for the individual to be apart from other staff and passengers;



use of a medical mask to prevent spread from the infected person (see Africa CDC Guidance for Community Use of Face Masks);



who to call for information and advice and how to safely access medical services;



how to decontaminate areas where the individual has been; and



what information to give to other staff and passengers.



Staff should frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using standard cleaning products.



Use posters and announcements to remind travellers and staff to wash their hands often, follow general hygiene advice and not travel or work if they are unwell.



Provide hand washing facilities at transport hubs with soap and water (e.g. bucket with tap/tippy tap) and/or an alcohol-based hand rub.



Provide alcohol-based hand rubs in vehicles for use after opening and closing doors and exchanging payment.



Transport authorities and companies should plan for a possible reduction of vehicles and/or frequency in non-essential services while maintaining essential services.



Consider alternate transportation that allows for appropriate social distancing measures to be maintained (e.g. walking, riding a bicycle).

Early stage and expanding outbreak (Phase 1-2)

In addition to the above measures:

- Transport authorities, companies and passengers should minimise non-essential travel between towns, cities and regions, except for essential goods and services.
- Aim to maintain at least one metre distance between each passenger while queueing and travelling.
- Mark one metre gaps on the floor with chalk/markers to encourage safe distancing in queues.
- Limit the number of sitting passengers per vehicle to maintain at least one metre distance between passengers; consider banning standing passengers and seated occupancy to 50% of the normal capacity of the vehicle; if travelling in a taxi/tricycle, passengers should sit in the back and preferably only sit close to someone from their own household.
- Increase ventilation during journeys by opening windows.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces between each journey using detergent followed by household disinfectant (0.05% sodium hypochlorite) or disinfectant wipes. Frequently touched surfaces include: door handles (internal and external), hand rails, seats, seatbelts, head rests, window controls, trunk/boot lid, steering wheel, dashboard, control buttons, motorcycle/tricycle handle bars.
- Consider the use of face masks for staff, especially where physical distance cannot be maintained; see Africa CDC Guidance for Community Use of Face Masks.⁴

Advancing and large outbreak with nationwide transmission (Phase 3-4)

In addition to the above measures:

- Transport authorities, companies and passengers should minimise use of public transport and only take essential journeys.
- Transport authorities and companies should maintain sufficient services for essential businesses, including to facilitate access to food, medical services and social support, ensuring the all the above precautions are in place.
- Everyone should limit to only essential journeys and strictly follow the precautions described above regarding physical distancing and hygiene.

⁴ <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>



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