

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The world is currently faced with a pandemic of COVID-19, a new virus that spreads so fast through droplet infection especially in crowded places and causes illness. Since its new, there is no immunity against it. Therefore, it is important that we practice preventive measures.

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include;

- Fever
- Running Nose (flu)
- Cough
- General Weakness
- Difficulty in breathing if the patient develops pneumonia.

The Ministry of Health has developed the following guidelines to provide information to Public transport owners and travelers using public service vehicles to avoid infection and spread of COVID-19.

Urban authorities, transport organizations, park managers, conductors travelers and individuals **MUST** adhere to the following guidelines;

- 1.** All individuals accessing a taxi or bus park must undergo temperature screening.
- 2.** Provide adequate hand washing facilities with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub. Everyone **MUST** wash and sanitize before entry to any public service vehicles. Handwashing facilities and alcohol based sanitizers should be placed at strategic points like security check points, entrance of public transport, toilets and payment points
- 3.** Regularly clean all chairs, rails and window panes in the public service vehicles with disinfectant or soap and water. In addition, ensure that all chairs, desks and tables, telephones and keyboards in the offices dealing with public transport are disinfected at least three times a day.

- 4.** Regularly clean and disinfect all communal places such as; toilets, floor surfaces; and frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs/handles and staircases with disinfectant or soap and water. This includes toilet facilities along the highways. This cleaning should be done under close supervision and at least 3 times a day or 4 times in areas of extremely heavy traffic.
- 5.** Provide adequate waste management facilities (waste bins and bin-liners, cans) in the public service vehicles and vehicle parks. Ensure availability of properly protected/trained waste handlers with gloves, masks, aprons and protective overalls where necessary.
- 6.** Avoid overcrowding and body contact. Keep a distance from each other. All public service vehicles are advised to find more innovative ways to avoid overcrowding.
- 7.** Ensure good ventilation and good respiratory hygiene in all public service vehicles.
- 8.** Not every traveller should have a face mask. **ONLY** those with symptoms of flu and cough **MUST** put on masks while travelling in public service vehicles to avoid infecting others.
- 9.** If anyone in the public service vehicle has signs and symptoms similar to COVID-19, calmly **STOP** the taxi, **Do NOT** create panic or anxiety, ensure no one leaves the taxi, quietly step aside and call the Ministry of Health toll free lines on **0800-100-066** or **0800-203-033**.
- 10.** Travel outside the country is currently banned.
- 11.** Leaflets with information on prevention of COVID-19 should be provided to all passengers.
- 12.** Display posters with information and key messages on COVID-19 in different languages in places that are easily visible (public service vehicles, doors, public service vehicle offices).
- 13.** Provide guidelines on Do's and Don'ts to every passenger who accesses your public service vehicles. These include the following;
 - a.** Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or a handkerchief when coughing and sneezing. The handkerchief must be carefully kept away from other passengers, and washed and ironed by you daily. In case of use of disposable tissue, ensure it is disposed of in a waste bin or a designated area where it can be burnt on a daily basis. In this way, you protect others from any virus released through cough and sneezing.
 - b.** Keep a distance of a meter from anyone who is coughing or sneezing and remind them that they need to have a face mask to avoid infecting others.

- c.** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth at all times. Hands touch many surfaces including money which can be contaminated with the virus and you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself.
- d.** **AVOID** hand-shakes and hugging at all times.
- e.** **DO NOT SPIT** in the public service vehicles. If you must spit, use tissue or your own handkerchief and carefully dispose of it or burn it.
- f.** In the event of any COVID-19 case in any district, all public transportation **MUST** stop.

*If you suspect any person has developed signs and symptoms of COVID-19, immediately call the Ministry of Health toll free lines on **0800-100-066** or **0800-203-033** and alert them about the situation with full address of the suspected case. Avoid going to the health facilities. Ministry of Health will evacuate the suspected case..*

