



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Infection Control Branch

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**Health Advice on Prevention of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
for Drivers, Crews and Operational Staff of Public Transport
(Interim)**

I. Disease information

Please visit the following website for disease information, affected areas and updated information related to COVID-19:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>

2. The Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) (Public Transport) Regulation (Cap. 599I) comes into operation on 15 July 2020. According to Cap 599I, a person (except those under the age of two and those who has lawful authority or reasonable excuse) must wear a mask at all times when boarding or on board a public transport carrier, or is entering or present in an MTR paid area. Details are available at:

<https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20202452e/es220202452143.pdf>

3. The Department of Health advises drivers, crews and operational staff of public transport companies should take the following precautionary measures at their workplaces to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

II. Preventive measures

A. Maintain good personal hygiene

- (a) Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose.
- (b) **Maintain hand hygiene**
 - i. Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching mouth, nose or eyes; after using the toilet; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
 - ii. Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds, then dry with a disposable paper towel. When the hands are cleaned, do not touch the water tap directly again (for example, using a paper towel to wrap the faucet before turn it off). If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70-80% alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
- (c) Check body **temperature** regularly. Those with fever or respiratory symptoms or sudden loss of taste/smell should refrain from work, wear a surgical mask, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- (d) Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- (e) All should wear mask as far as feasible. For safety reasons, mask-wearing is not recommended for
 - i. children below age of 2 without supervision
 - ii. people with difficulty breathing
 - iii. people need assistance to remove the mask.
- (f) N95 respirators are generally not recommended for use by the general public in community settings as surgical mask can protect against COVID-19 which is mainly transmitted by droplet and contact route. Special training is required for proper wearing and removal of N95 respirator. Otherwise the infective risk due to inadequate protection and contamination may be increased.

- (g) Staff are advised to stagger their meal time and keep **social distancing** when having meals.
- (h) Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise, and adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption.
- (i) Staff are encouraged to join the Government’s “COVID-19 Targeted Group Testing Scheme”.

B. Maintain good ventilation

- (a) Ensure the air-conditioning system is functioning well with sufficient fresh air supply in the compartments.
- (b) Ensure the air filter and ducting are cleaned regularly and maintained in good working condition at all times.
- (c) Follow the “Practice Note on Managing Air Quality in Air-conditioned Public Transport Facilities” as recommended by Environmental Protection Department:

<https://www.iaq.gov.hk/en/publications-and-references/practice-notes.aspx>

C. Maintain good environmental hygiene

- (a) Clean and disinfect compartments regularly with 1 in 99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol. Pay attention to the cleaning of seats, handrails, safety belts and buckles and air inlet/outlet inside compartments.
- (b) If places are contaminated by respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, use absorbent disposable towels to wipe them away. Then disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1 in 49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.
- (c) **Spraying disinfectants is not recommended as this practice could be harmful and would not reduce the risk of viral transmission.**
- (d) Use appropriate personal protective equipment e.g. gloves and surgical mask when carrying out cleansing works.

III. During the Emergency Response Level for COVID-19

A. Enhance Personal Hygiene

- (a) Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose.
- (b) Staff must wear a mask when required to work within public transport carrier or MTR paid area.

B. Enhance Cabin Ventilation

- (a) Keep windows open as appropriate and where possible to maintain good ventilation, including the driver/captain's cabin. Not applicable to trains.
- (b) For enclosed or air-conditioning compartments, the fresh air inlet volume should be adjusted to the maximum level.

C. Enhance Cabin Environmental Hygiene

- (a) Step up cleansing schedule.
- (b) Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection for hand-touched surfaces such as handles and buttons.
- (c) Assign staff to monitor closely the cleansing works for compartments at termini/piers in between departures.

D. Public protection

- (a) Advise passengers to wear **masks** in accordance with legal requirements under Cap. 599I.
- (b) Assist the passengers to call ambulance service when needed.

IV. Cleaning and disinfection of environment when a confirmed case of COVID-19 is encountered in the compartments

A. Cleaning staff would wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including:

- (a) Surgical mask
- (b) Latex gloves
- (c) Disposable gown
- (d) Eye protection (goggles/face shield)
- (e) Cap (optional)

B. Staff training:

- (a) Ensure the frontline cleaning staff received training with environmental disinfection procedures and supervising staff should have read and familiar with the disinfection guidelines. Regular revision or recirculation of the guidelines is encouraged.

C. Enhanced environmental disinfection

- (a) Disinfect all potentially contaminated surfaces or items by using 1 in 49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry.

D. If there is blood, secretions, vomitus or excreta spillage, take enhanced measures:

- (a) Cleaning staff should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical mask, gloves, disposable gown, eye protection (goggles/face shield) and cap (optional).
- (b) Use forceps to hold the strong absorbent disposable towels to wipe away the blood, secretions, vomitus or excreta during a preliminary clean up.
- (c) Then put the forceps and used absorbent disposable towels in a garbage bag carefully without contaminating oneself/the environment.
- (d) Disinfect with 1 in 4 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 4 parts of water), wipe

from the outside inward, leave for 10 minutes, rinse with water and wipe dry afterwards.

- (e) After the procedure, put all the wastes and cleansing tools (e.g. forceps, cloth, mop head) in the garbage bag.
- (f) Carefully remove PPE, put them in the garbage bag, and then perform hand hygiene.

(When hands are not visibly soiled, use 70-80% alcohol-based handrub. Wash hands with soap and water when hands are visibly dirty or visible soiled with blood, body fluid.)

- (g) Wear a pair of new gloves, seal the waste bag tight and dispose it properly in covered rubbish bin. Then, label the rubbish bin and put it in a safe undisturbed place until collection.
- (h) Remove gloves carefully. Wash hands with liquid soap and water.

V. Guidelines and educational material for Drivers, Crews and Operational Staff of Public Transport

A. Proper use of bleach

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/100272.html>

B. Proper use of mask

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/460/19731.html>

C. Proper Hand Hygiene

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/460/19728.html>

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