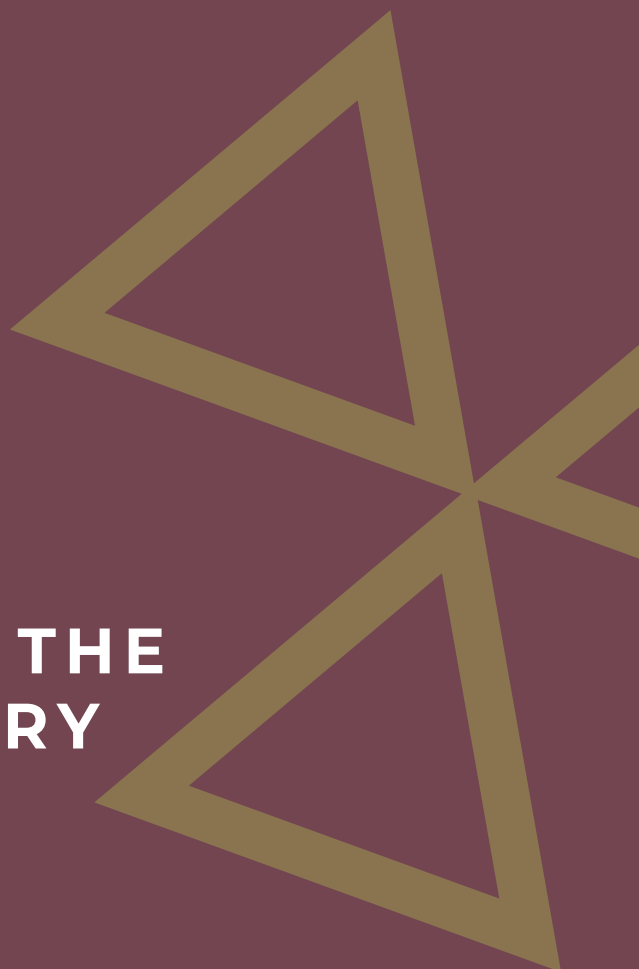



# TIPS FOR ENSURING WORKER SAFETY IN THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY


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The COVID-19 pandemic has forced thousands of individuals to change their way of living and working. In the meantime, every country in the world is interested in boosting their stalled economies. Both public and private sector organizations are implementing plans to revive their operations.

Amidst these endeavours, employees engaged in professions related to the Transport sector face a unique set of challenges in staying safe while on the job. Even though the typical COVID-19 safety guidelines suggest social distancing, personal hygiene and respiratory hygiene, these employees have practical issues in implementing them. The tips mentioned in this guideline will help such employees stay safe while being productive at work.



# UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

- One should be aware of how COVID-19 spreads and the seriousness of its spreading.
- Given the nature of the infection, there is a possibility that you could get sick and become a carrier of the virus.
- COVID-19 has a long recovery period compared to other communicable diseases.
- People with pre-existing diseases are more vulnerable and have largely contributed to the mortality rate.
- Asymptomatic patients can still be carriers and thereby unknowingly spread the disease.

# DELIVERY SERVICES

- Schedule visits to limit exposure to large crowds and rush hours where appropriate.
- Set loading or pickup times in a staggered manner.
- Arrange pickup, collection points and procedures with clear signage and markings.
- Wherever possible, have single workers to load or unload vehicles.
- Minimize unnecessary contact at gatehouse security, yard and warehouse - for example, enforce non-contact deliveries which are pre-planned.
- Maximize the use of electronic paperwork where possible and review procedures to enable the safe exchange of paper copies where needed - for example, required transport documents.
- People who work together in one vehicle should be in fixed pairings as far as possible.
- Encourage drivers to stay in their vehicles whenever possible in order to make sure their safety and existing precautionary work practices are not compromised.
- Provide drivers with adequate hand sanitizers, wipes, disposable tissues and water to drink.
- Drivers should sanitize their hands after every pickup and delivery. Sanitize the steering wheel, gear arm and other frequently touched accessories.
- Do not allow them to smoke or chew betel.
- Once the vehicle has completed delivery it should be cleaned and sanitized - especially frequently touched parts like door handles.



# PASSENGER TRANSPORT - BUSES

- Vehicle interior including entry and exit points should be disinfected before starting each trip.
- Driver, conductor/helper staff and all passengers should wear face masks. (Posters depicting this requirement should be displayed).
- It is safer to assign the same team to work in the same vehicle.
- Minimize the handling of cash and encourage passengers to bring the exact amount for the fare. (Posters depicting this requirement should be displayed).
- Hand sanitizer/alcohol rub can be fixed at the entry point of the vehicle for passengers to sanitize their hands.
- All passenger contact points in vehicles should be disinfected daily.
- One identified door should be used only for loading passengers.
- Health promotional messages and recommended behaviour should be transmitted through the public address system in the vehicle.
- Provide maximum ventilation inside buses by opening windows or allowing fresh air through the AC system.
- Disinfect the vehicle after every trip - especially common touchpoints.
- The driver or the passengers should not chew betel or smoke inside the vehicle.

# THREE WHEELERS/TAXIS

- As per the government regulations, only 2 passengers should be allowed to travel at any given time.
- Provide or remind sanitizing of hands as they enter the vehicle.
- All, including the driver, should wear face masks.
- The driver or the passengers should not chew betel or smoke inside the vehicle.
- Talk less while in the vehicle. Try to use Google locations to show the destinations.
- Everybody should be cautious not to touch their face, nose, mouth or eyes.
- Three Wheelers should fix a transparent plastic board or thick polythene between the driver and the rear seats. (This is very important for the safety of the driver).
- While inside the Three Wheeler, the passenger should be seated properly (and not leaning forward) so that a safe distance is maintained throughout the journey.
- Remind the passengers to keep change money ready in order to limit the exchange between driver and passengers.



# PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



Clean your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Wear a mask when leaving home.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Avoid close contact with anyone displaying cold or flu-like symptoms.



If you are sick, stay at home and avoid crowds and contact with others.



Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or use a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissue into a closed bin immediately after use.



Do not shake hands. Greet people with a wave, a nod or bow instead.



If you have a fever, cough and difficulty in breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your healthcare provider.

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**Disclaimer:** The guidelines outlined in this document are meant to safeguard you and your loved ones from COVID-19. Seek professional advice if you wish to clarify any section of this document or take any action based on this document.

This document has been developed based on the information published by the UK Government on working safely during COVID-19.