

## Guidance Information

# Interim Advice on the Transport of Mental Health Consumers

A range of information (fact sheets) and other resources (apps and online learning modules) are available from <https://www.health.gov.au/resources>. These are generic resources and not necessarily fully developed for application in mental health care settings.

The generic Transport Services advice can be found at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-drivers-and-passengers-using-public-transport>

The advice contained here is supplementary and will be reviewed regularly as information on COVID-19 and the spread of the virus in the SA community becomes available. It is drawn from current guidance from WA Health, NSW Health and Commonwealth Government sites.

**General Advice on Social Environments (such as reception areas and vehicles)**  
Social contact environments include (but are not limited to), transport vehicles, shopping centres and private businesses.

The risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the social and non-health care work settings can be minimised through a good standard of general hygiene. This includes:

- > promoting cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene
- > routine cleaning of frequently touched hard surfaces with detergent/disinfectant solution/wipe
- > providing adequate alcohol-based hand rub for staff and consumers to use. Alcohol-based hand rub stations should be available, especially in areas where food is on display and frequent touching of produce occurs
- > training staff on use of alcohol-based hand rub.

## Infection Control - Online Training Resources

### a) COVID-19 Infection control training

The Commonwealth Department of Health has made available a 30-minute online training module for health care workers in all settings.

It covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training%C2>

### b) Other resources

Hand Hygiene Australia has an online learning system:

<https://www.hha.org.au/online-learning/learning-module-information>

To register: <https://hhaustralia.southrock.com/cgi-bin-secure/Home.cgi?msecs=1584921435743>

## What Mental Health Staff Driving a Consumer Need to Know

- > If you are healthy, you do not need to wear a mask (surgical or N95). If you are not feeling well, then you should not be in close proximity or engaging with consumers or carers.
- > Prior to transporting any mental health consumer, you must undertake the screening questions with them (**see page 2**).



## Standard COVID-19 Screening Questions

1. Have you travelled from overseas or from interstate in the last 14 days?
2. Have you had contact with a person who is a known or possible COVID-19 case?
  - a. If yes, when and who was this person?
3. Do you have or have you had in the past 3 days any of the following:
  - a. Fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills)
  - b. Sore throat
  - c. Cough
  - d. Shortness of breath.

**If yes** to any of these, then only transport if essential and with the necessary surgical masks for both the consumer and mental health worker (see point below).

\*\* The CBIS Novel respiratory pathogen screening tool (PATHGN) is available for CALHN Mental Health staff on the Service Plan screen.

- > Any mental health consumer with a suspected case of coronavirus, or who has travelled from overseas or interstate in the past 14 days should not be transported in a passenger vehicle unless there is an acute mental health need and an ambulance is unavailable. If this occurs, then a surgical mask for the consumer and mental health care worker are required.
- > Whenever transporting a mental health consumer during the COVID-19 crisis:
  - > They should sit on the rear left hand side passenger seat.
  - > Only one passenger should be permitted in a standard passenger vehicle. Larger vehicles may allow for additional passengers but social distancing should still apply (i.e. at least 1.5 metre space between driver and the passenger).
  - > The air conditioning should be switched off and only fresh air should vent the vehicle. If possible the back window can be partial left open to allow air to flow out of the rear of the car.
  - > Employ good personal hygiene throughout the engagement with the consumer.
  - > There is no need to wear a surgical or N95 mask or other PPE if the patient is well.
  - > If the patient meets any of the COVID-19 screening questions criteria, then both the consumer and mental health worker must wear a surgical mask.
- > After each trip, and prior to any other persons use of the vehicle, the car should be cleaned using appropriate cleaning products:
  - > Cleaning products should be chosen for appropriateness for the surface to be cleaned. In general, combined detergent/disinfectant solutions or wipes should be chosen for hard surfaces. Some cleaning products - i.e. bleach can damage fabrics, stainless steel and other surfaces. Either a combined detergent/disinfectant wipe that has antiviral capability or a 70% large disposable alcohol wipe should be chosen. Several wipes are required i.e. one wipe per door. Particular attention should be paid to doors, handles and any knobs in the car.
- > Any staff member or contractor cleaning the vehicle should:
  - > Avoid touching the face especially mouth, eyes and nose when cleaning.
  - > Wear disposable gloves whilst cleaning.
  - > Perform effective hand washing using soap and water for 40-60 seconds after cleaning task.
- > In the event of a passenger spreading droplets (such as sneezing, coughing or vomiting), clean surfaces with appropriate disinfectant wipes so that the potential spread of infection can be minimised.

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