



Safety Note

11 August 2021

Public transport, taxis and ride share services and COVID-19

The purpose of this Safety Note is to raise considerations that you may wish to adopt when travelling by public transport, taxis or ride share services. There are many things to consider to help reduce the risk to your health.

Overarching principles

To maintain the safety of staff and students, it is important that Government requirements are followed, these include:

- using the Check In Qld app each and every time you enter a UQ building;
- physically distance (1.5m) from others to the extent possible;
- wear a [face mask](#) when you are not able to keep 1.5 metres away from other people **or** whenever [mandatory face masks](#) are required, as per current Queensland Government directions;
- maintaining high levels of personal hygiene;
- not attending campus if:
 - unwell;
 - waiting on test results for COVID-19; or
 - have been instructed to self-isolate by QLD Public Health.
- get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms immediately and stay home until your results are known **and** your symptoms have resolved.

Considerations

Even though at the moment Queensland is in a very good position, some people may still feel anxious about taking public transport, taxis or ride share services. If so, consider these alternatives:

- Drive if you have access to a car and parking.
- Carpool with a friend.
- Cycle, scooter or walk.

If these aren't viable options:

- Investigate less congested transport options for your area e.g. train, bus, ferry.
- Take a personal hand sanitiser with you and use it as soon as you get off the service and wash your hands immediately when arriving at your destination.
- Wait for the next service if your mode is too congested or if on a train, go to the farther ends of the platform rather than board from the middle of the platform.
- Drive part of the way and take public transport from there.
- Leave a gap between you and others at the stop or platform



- Sit away from others if possible on the service.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow and away from others – dispose of the tissue in the bin as soon as possible.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wear a face mask.

Can I use a mask?

At times the Government will issue the requirement to wear masks on public transport, in taxis and rideshare services, as well as areas while waiting for these services e.g. bus stops and taxi ranks. At these time, you **must** wear a mask.

At other times you may want to wear a mask if you can not physically distance. If you are using a mask for travelling, ensure that it is fitted correctly and that you dispose of it after one use.

I'm still anxious, what can I do?

Remember that the risk of infection in the community is regarded as low at the moment but you can speak with your Supervisor or Manager. Further, there is the availability for all staff to access the [Employee Assistance Program](#) for free, confidential counselling service, and students can access counselling through [Student Services](#).

UQ has developed a general risk assessment for travelling to campuses on public transport. You can access through UQSafe- Risk Register by filtering on Risk Assessment ID 15696.

Resources

Read more about [COVID Safe travel](#) from Translink