Safety Note

10 December 2020

Public Transport and COVID-19

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

Overarching principles

Even though people have done really well so far, COVID-19 has not gone away – and we must continue to practice our good habits into 2021.

To maintain the safety of staff and students it is important that:

- appropriate physical distancing guidelines are implemented to the extent possible;
- high levels of personal hygiene are maintained; and
- people must not attend campus if:
  - they are unwell;
  - waiting on test results for COVID-19; or
  - have been instructed to self-isolate.

The more space between you and others, the less likely it is for the virus to spread.

Public Transport considerations

Even though at the moment Queensland is in a very good position, some people may still feel anxious about taking public transport. 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 and you need to take public transportation:

- 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.
Can I use a surgical mask?

If you are well, the current health advice is that you do not need to wear a surgical mask. If you still are considering using a surgical mask for travelling, ensure that it is fitted correctly and that you dispose of it after one use. Refer to our FAQ.

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


