



## Safety Note

8 July 2020

### Public Transport and COVID-19

As a large organisation, we need to ensure that we support measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community for the good of the entire UQ community so that we can all be well and healthy and transition back to our campuses safely.

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.

#### General measures

The measures below apply to all staff, students and visitors:

- You must stay at home if you are sick or are directed to self-isolate by Queensland Public Health. Anyone who has fever (or history of fever) OR have acute respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) should see a doctor immediately.
- Reduce opportunities for direct transmission e.g. avoid sharing items, avoid unnecessary touching.
- Ensure impeccable personal hygiene practices.
- Staff and students who are in vulnerable populations are encouraged at this time to continue to work or study from home, or seek medical advice from their health practitioner to support informed risk assessment and decision-making regarding the suitability of returning to the university environment.
- To encourage better contact tracing capability, staff and students are encouraged to download the COVIDSafe app.

#### Translink and other services

UQ has negotiated with Translink additional bus [services](#) to reduce overcrowding on popular routes. Additional Saturday bus services will be available when there are exams scheduled.

Further information about other transport options to campuses can be found on the [Parking and Transport](#) page. Parking on campuses has been free for a number of months, paid parking will resume on 3 August.

#### Public Transport considerations

If you are anxious about taking public transport, 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.
- Stagger your start or finish time where possible to use services outside peak travel times.
- 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

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-on-social-distancing>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources>

[COVID-safe public transport plan](#)

[Chief Health Officer public health directions](#)