Safety Note

21 January 2022

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.
- Physically distance (1.5m) from others.
- Wear a face mask whenever mandatory face masks are required, as per current Queensland Government directions.
- Maintaining high levels of personal hygiene.
- Not attending campus if:
  - Have any COVID-19 like symptoms;
  - unwell;
  - waiting on test results for COVID-19;
  - have tested positive with a PCR or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT); or
  - a close contact of a confirmed case or have been instructed to self-isolate by QLD Public Health.

See Actions to take if you test positive to COVID-19 or are a close contact

Viable options to take:

- 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.
- Discuss adjusting your start and finish times with your supervisor to avoid public transportation during peak periods.
- 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.
• Use your elbow to press the button to open the train door rather than your hand,
• Avoid touching your face.
• Sit in the back seat of taxis or rideshare services when possible.
• Wear a face mask.

Some people may 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.

I’m still anxious, what can I do?

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