

Recommendations for public transport operators

Both seasonal influenza and **COVID-19 infection pathogens are spread:**

- **by direct contact with an infected person;**
- **by small drops** produced by the infected person while speaking, sneezing or coughing;
- by indirect contact with surfaces and objects contaminated by respiratory secretions.

For example, a person may get infected:

- by keeping a distance of less than 2 metres from an infected person who speaks, coughs or sneezes;
- by touching the infected person's body, for example, by kissing or shaking hands and then touching yourself (by touching mouth, eyes or nose) with unwashed hands;
- by touching surfaces or objects such as door handles which the infected person has touched before, and then touching yourself (by touching mouth, eyes or nose) with unwashed hands.

At around 20°C, the virus may remain present on various surfaces for more than 48 hours. Household disinfectants have proved to be efficient against the pathogen of COVID-19 infection. Most effective is 70% ethanol solution and 0.1–0.5% sodium hypochloride solution, which is often used as household bleach.

Considering the above, we invite you to take into account the following recommendations:

1. To thoroughly and regularly undertake **wet cleaning of public transport vehicles with household disinfectants;**
2. Particularly, to thoroughly **clear all surfaces** touched by a large number of passengers;
3. **Facial masks** for public transport drivers for protection against possible Covid-19 infections **are not effective**, because they do not protect against infection, but create a false sense of security;

Regarding protection of employees, please refer to the Recommendations for employers at <https://spkc.gov.lv/lv/aktualitates/get/nid/772>

The most effective measure to limit the spread of COVID-19 infection in public transport is to inform passengers of the following precautionary measures:

- a. by falling ill with an acute upper respiratory infection disease – cough, runny nose, sore throat, increased body temperature, – do not visit public places, including, if possible, to avoid the use of public transport in order not to infect other people;
- b. to not cough and not sneeze at others. When coughing and sneezing, cover the mouth and nose by means of a disposable tissue which shall be disposed of after use and then wash hands,
- c. if there are no disposable wipes or handkerchief available, cough or sneeze by turning your face towards the inner surface of the elbow surface (sleeve), but not in the palm;
- d. to prevent others sneezing or coughing at you (whenever possible, keep a distance of at least 2 metres from sick passengers);
- e. after visiting public sites, including use of public transport, thoroughly wash hands with soap, if it is not possible to wash hands, use ethanol-containing hand disinfectant;
- f. keep in mind that touchscreen devices, such as smartphone surfaces, may be also be contaminated with viruses and bacteria, and therefore it is recommended to clean them regularly with ethanol-containing disinfectants;
- g. do not touch mouth, eyes or nose, for as long as there is not the possibility to wash hands.