



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT GUIDE



Vision: A Healthy Nation by 2023

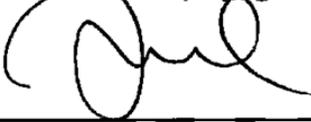
Values: Customer Focus, Botho, Timeliness, Equity, Teamwork, Accountability.

Foreword

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome due to novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2) outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" (PHEIC) and the WHO declared the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) a pandemic on 12th March 2020.

Botswana announced the first positive case in the country on 30th March and the first death the following day on 31st March 2020. This document serves to aid healthcare facilities as they prepare themselves to screen individuals for COVID-19 as well as outlining how to handle suspected and confirmed cases.

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Director of Health Services

Ministry of Health and Wellness

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in public transport.

2 RESPONSIBILITY

- The driver, conductor and public transport marshals (rabuka) to oversee the implementation of these measures.

3 Definition of Terms

- **Cleaning:** The removal of germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects
 - Clean with soap and clean water
- **Hand Hygiene:** Washing hands with soap and clean water OR sanitizing with alcohol based sanitizer
- **Sanitizing:** Reduction of the amount of pathogens (harmful microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi) to a safe level
 - Sanitize with 60% ethanol / 70% isopropyl or 0.1 sodium hypochlorite solution
- **Disinfection:** The killing of germs on surfaces or objects
 - Disinfect with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite disinfectants
- **Social distancing:** The practice of social distancing promotes a distance of 1-2 metre between people.

4. TEMPERATURE SCREENING

- Temperature recording at entrance, high temperature more than 37.4 and seek medical assistance at the call center (16649)
- Registration of all passengers
- Registers to be sent to command center (16649)

5 Routine Cleaning and Sanitizing

- The transport cleaner should wear appropriate PPE: face mask, plastic gowns if available and disposable gloves
- Cleaning should be done in the morning and afternoon using soap and clean water
- Doors and windows should remain open when cleaning and sanitizing the vehicle
- At the end of each trip conducted, sanitizing with alcohol based solution should be done on the surfaces touched most frequently such as:
 - Arm rests
 - Door handles
 - Doors and windows
 - Hard seats
 - Seat belt buckles,
 - Light and air controls,
 - Grab handles

6 Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Transport Vehicles that May Have Transported a Confirmed COVID-19 Case

- Wear appropriate PPE: a face mask, plastic gowns if available and disposable gloves
- Suspend movement of the vehicle until after the process of disinfection is complete
- Open doors and windows to increase air circulation in the vehicle

- Cleaning and disinfection should be supervised by EHP or IPC officers
- For hard non-porous surfaces within the interior of the vehicle such as hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles, clean with detergent or soap and water if the surfaces are visibly dirty, prior to disinfectant application
- For soft or porous surfaces such as fabric seats, remove any visible contamination, if present, and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces
- For frequently touched electronic surfaces, such as tablets or touch screens used in the vehicle, remove visible dirt, then disinfect following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 60%-70% alcohol to disinfect
- Once the vehicle has been appropriately disinfected, it can be used immediately
- If more than seven days passed since a confirmed COVID-19 case used the vehicle, disinfection is not necessary

7 Disposal of Waste

- Gloves and any other disposable PPE used for cleaning and disinfecting the vehicle should be removed and disposed of after cleaning
- Hands should be washed immediately after removal of gloves and PPE with soap and water for at least 20-40 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- If a plastic gown was not worn, work uniforms/clothes worn during cleaning and disinfection should be washed afterwards with hot water and domestic detergents. Wash hands after handling laundry

8 Hand Hygiene

- Drivers and passengers should perform hand hygiene before entrance into the vehicle
- Avoid touching of mouth, nose and eyes

9 Respiratory Etiquette

- Drivers and passengers should wear face masks in public transport
- Posters of cough etiquette should be displayed inside the vehicle
- Passengers should always cover their mouth and nose when coughing/sneezing with paper tissue or use the corner of elbow
- People who are known contacts or suspected to have COVID-19 should not use public transport

10 Social Distancing

- In areas where there is community transmission, limit the number of passengers in the vehicle
- In waiting areas for public transportation, social distancing of 1-2 meters should be maintained

1.2 References

http://northcountrychamber.com/data/files/DOH_COVID19_CleaningDisinfectingRetailStores_031620.pdf

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<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean.html#m>

<https://www.unicef.org/media/66356/file/WASH-COVID-19-infection-prevention-and-control-in-schools-2020.pdf>