



COVID-19 Transitioning - Standards for Transport Service Providers and for Passengers using Transport Services



Applicability

The following standards are issued under the Public Health Act Chapter 465 of the Laws of Malta. These standards apply for all means of Public Transport which include:

1. Scheduled Public Transport Services
2. Coaches, Minibuses, Minivans and Tail-lift Vans
3. Taxis and light passenger transport vehicles
4. Gozo Channel and all other Ferry Services
5. Commercial Passenger Vessels



Scheduled Public Transport Services

Passengers using the service

- ✓ Passengers not wearing a face mask or visor will not be allowed to board buses.
- ✓ Passengers are to be reminded that face masks or visors must be worn throughout the whole course of the journey.
- ✓ Passengers waiting for the bus in bus termini, interchanges and on bus stops are also to wear face masks or visors throughout their waiting time. Passengers are also requested to observe the social of 2 metres from other persons whilst queuing.
- ✓ The maximum limits of passengers allowed shall be as follows:

Bus type		Sitting passengers	Standing passengers (Adjusted)	Total passengers Adjusted
King Long	12 meter	41	5	46
Otokar	12 meter	42	15	57
Otokar	12 meter	35	15	50
Otokar	9 meter	31	10	41
Minibus	8.8 meter	17	0	17

- ✓ The bus operator will install stickers on the floor of the bus to guide passengers accordingly.
- ✓ Bus drivers will be responsible to limit the number of passengers on the bus.
- ✓ Passengers should always move back to allow for additional passengers to board the bus without blocking the passageway.
- ✓ Passengers are encouraged to use their *Tallinja Card* when paying for their fare onboard the bus. Persons paying by cash are required to have the exact fare. No change will be given.



Persons providing the service

- ✓ Persons providing the service which include bus drivers and support service personnel operating in bus termini are to wear face masks or visors, at all times, whilst in service.



Coaches, Minibuses, Minivans and Tail-lift Vans

Passengers using the service

- ✓ Passengers not wearing face masks or visors will not be allowed to board.
- ✓ Passengers are to be reminded that face masks or visors must be worn throughout the whole course of the journey.
- ✓ Any coach or minibus or minivan or tail-lift van shall carry up to 50% of its maximum capacity, so that passengers on board can better observe the social distance of 2 metres from other persons.
- ✓ Passengers waiting to board any coach or minibus or minivan or tail-lift van are to wear face masks or visors and observe the social distance of 2 metres from other persons throughout their waiting time.

Persons providing the service

- ✓ Drivers providing the service are to wear face masks or visors, at all time, whilst in service.



Taxis and light passenger transport vehicles

- ✓ The guidelines issued earlier continue to apply. These can be found on [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Guidance For Taxi And Cab Owners And Drivers.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Guidance%20For%20Taxi%20And%20Cab%20Owners%20And%20Drivers.pdf)



Gozo Channel and all other Ferry Services

Passengers using the service

- ✓ Passengers not wearing face masks or visors will not be allowed to board the ferry.
- ✓ Passengers are to be reminded that face masks or visors must be worn throughout the whole course of the journey.
- ✓ A ferry boat shall carry up to 50% of its maximum capacity, and passengers on board shall observe the social distance of 2 metres from other persons.
- ✓ Passengers waiting for the ferry at the ferry terminals / landing sites are to wear face masks or visors and observe the social distance of 2 metres from other persons throughout their waiting time.

Persons providing the service

- ✓ The crew of the ferry are to wear face masks or visors, at all time, whilst in service.



Commercial Passenger Vessels

Vessels providing the service

- ✓ Any commercial passenger vessel licensed to carry more than 10 persons may carry a maximum of 10 persons or 65% of its maximum capacity, whichever is the higher, but shall not in any case exceed 1 person per 4 square metres of the space.
- ✓ All commercial passenger vessels are bound to observe the **'Organised Public Mass Events Regulations, 2020'**
 - The maximum capacity of attendees must not exceed 1 person per 4 square metres of the space where any given public mass event is to be organised.
 - Attendees may gather in groups not exceeding 10 persons, with a 2 metre distance between groups
- ✓ All passenger vessels are also bound to abide by the **'Standards for Gatherings and Events'**.
- ✓ All passenger vessels shall clearly exhibit the maximum number of persons they can carry.
- ✓ Passenger vessels that will carry more than 100 persons must seek approval by the Malta Tourism Authority by submitting the prescribed **Risk Assessment Scoring Tool** which is to be downloaded and completed for onward transmission to the following email address: ***riskdepository@visitmalta.com***

Special Note on ventilation

✓ **Public Transport Buses**

- Air conditioning systems in the buses can be switched on.
- The air ducts of the air conditioning systems will be fumigated every night by the authorities in conjunction with the bus operator.
- The inflow particulate air filters of the air conditioning systems on the buses are being upgraded to have an efficiency to block allergens of between 90% and 95% depending on the bus model. These filters will be cleaned regularly in accordance with manufacturer guidelines.
- The air conditioning system will be set to ensure that the air within the bus is changed at least eight times per hour. This will be done by combining the internal re-circulation of air which will be filtered with the particulate air filters, and external air brought into the vehicle through the system intakes.
- Windows and escape hatches will remain closed for the correct functioning of the air conditioning systems, however both front doors and rear doors (where applicable) will be opened whenever the bus stops on a bus stop and at the end of each trip.

✓ **Other Vehicles** (e.g. coaches, private cars, taxis, vans, minibuses, etc.):

- Air conditioning systems in vehicles can be switched on
- Avoid using the recirculated air option for the vehicle's ventilation
- Operate the AC with ventilation selector on outside air. Typically, this is presented with the following icon:



- On long trips either keep windows slightly open or open windows frequently to ventilate with fresh air.
- For coaches, vans and minibuses only: All vehicle doors will be opened whenever the vehicle stops to board or alight passengers during a trip and at the end of each trip.



Special Note on masks and visors

- ✓ Face masks or visors should NOT be placed on young children under 3 years of age; on anyone who has trouble breathing; or on anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a mask or visor without assistance.

Special Note on sanitisers

- ✓ Buses, coaches, taxis, vans and minibuses will continue to provide sanitisers for the use of passengers boarding vehicles. Passengers are to be encouraged to make use of these sanitisers on boarding the vehicle.