The National Land Transport Authority (NLTA) hereby informs the public that, with a view to contain the spread of the Coronavirus, passengers will henceforth, and until further notice, have to comply with the following arrangements when travelling by public transport, that is, in public/contract buses, taxis and light rail vehicles.

A. Personal Protection

Passengers will be required to ensure their personal protection. The wearing of face masks will be compulsory for all passengers and a conductor/an authorised officer, taxi or contract bus driver will have the right to refuse access to an intending passenger not wearing a face mask. The wearing of gloves is advisable.

Passengers should as much as possible, avoid touching any inanimate object/surface in the vehicle such as door handles, backrests of the front seat, etc.

Passengers are also advised to sanitise their hands prior to and after each journey and to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth while travelling.

If deemed necessary, a bus operator/the light rail operator may cause the thermal screening of an intending passenger to be carried out.

B. Physical distancing at bus stops/bus stations/light rail stations

All intending passengers will have to queue up while maintaining physical distance at bus stops and at bus/light rail stations.

C. Physical distancing in public/contract buses, light rail vehicles and taxis

The following seating arrangements will have to be complied with, until further notice:

1. Buses, including contract buses not of minibus type - Only one passenger will be allowed to be seated on each row of two seats and two passengers will be allowed at each end of a row of three seats. Passengers will have to occupy seats as directed by bus conductors. No standing accommodation will be allowed;

2. Contract buses (15-seater minibus type) – One passenger will be allowed to be seated on each seat or row of seats; and
3. Taxis will be required to carry a maximum of three passengers at a time, except for 7-seater taxis where the number of passengers can be up to a maximum of 4. Only 2 passengers will be allowed on rear seats. One passenger will be allowed on the front seat adjacent to the driver.

4. The Light Rail Vehicle will carry a maximum of 81 passengers (36 sitting and 45 standing) per trip.

D. Hours of travel/Peak hours

Buses will operate from 05h00 to 21h00 whereas the Light Rail Vehicle will operate from 06h00 to 19h00, with morning peak hours from 06h00 to 10h00 and afternoon peak hours from 14h30 to 19h00, until further notice.

Passengers holding a valid Work Access Permit will travel during the peak hours. Other passengers, including Senior Citizens, are highly advised to refrain from travelling by public transport except where he/she has to shop for basic necessities or for medical purposes.

E. Tendering of exact fare

An appeal is being hereby made to passengers to tender the exact amount of the bus fare for their journey.

F. Notices at bus/light rail stations and in buses/light rail vehicles

Passengers are requested to comply strictly with any notice which may be placed at bus/light rail stations and in buses/light rail vehicles by bus operators/the light rail operator for their own safety and security.

The above arrangements may be reviewed progressively, and the public will be kept informed accordingly.

The NLTA relies on the understanding and collaboration of the public for strict compliance with the above measures.

Stay home as far as possible and stay safe.

National Land Transport Authority

09 May 2020