

## COVID-19

# Using Taxis, Ride Shares and Public Transportation

The following information includes tips to help protect against acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, when using taxis, ride shares and public transportation.

### What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infection caused by a new type of coronavirus. COVID-19 can present as an acute respiratory illness in humans. More information on COVID-19 can be found at [www.lambtonpublichealth.ca](http://www.lambtonpublichealth.ca).

### Preventing the spread of COVID-19 in taxi/ride shares and public transportation

Recommendations for passengers include:

#### General Tips:

- Avoid all non-essential trips
- Always keep a distance of at least two metres (6 feet) from others
- When distancing is not possible, wearing a face covering is one way to protect those around you. [Learn about face coverings](#) – how to use, clean and dispose of them
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Check the appropriate transportation website or call ahead to check for schedule changes/delays and other information
- Do not use the seats closest to the operator/driver
- When using a taxi/ride share, sit in the back right seat
- Use the rear doors of the bus or train when boarding and exiting

- Handle your own personal bags and belongings
- If possible, pay in advance using credit or debit. When this is not possible, try to provide exact payment.

#### Practice respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene:

- Clean hands often with an alcohol-based hand rub (with at least 60% alcohol), or wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after touching frequently touched surfaces (i.e. door handles, arm rests, buttons, seatbelts, debit machines, etc.).
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- If needed, carry tissues with you. Dispose of tissues in the trash immediately after exiting the vehicle.

#### Avoid use when sick:

- Stay home when you are sick
- If you must take a taxi/ride share, wear a mask, sit in the back right seat, and open the window (weather permitting)
- [Learn about face coverings](#) – how to use, clean and dispose of them
- Note the taxi/ride share company name and operator number in case there is a need for contact tracing
- If you must go out for a medical appointment or urgent care and have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are a close contact of a case, inform



Lambton Public Health and wear a surgical or procedure mask over your nose and mouth, and travel in a private vehicle if possible

- If you are in distress (e.g. significant trouble breathing, chest pain, fainting, or have a significant worsening of any chronic disease symptoms), do not go to an Assessment Centre. Call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

**Sources:**

<https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/>

*Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario* (Ministry of Health, April 15, 2020)

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-self-monitor.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/rideshare-drivers-for-hire.html>

[https://www.sarnia.ca/app/uploads/2020/04/City-of-Sarnia-FULL-4\\_9\\_20-1.pdf](https://www.sarnia.ca/app/uploads/2020/04/City-of-Sarnia-FULL-4_9_20-1.pdf)

<https://www.sarnia.ca/living-here/getting-around/sarnia-transit/>

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