



24 March 2020
Department of State Growth

Using buses during COVID-19

The Department of State Growth is working with bus operators to introduce practical measures on public transport to ensure that people who need to travel and bus drivers are kept as safe as possible.

Anyone who is required to be in isolation must not use public transport. Similarly, anyone who is unwell should not use public transport.

Whenever possible, passengers should:

- Where there is available capacity, leave a spare seat between passengers. This does not apply to families or people from the same household.
- Consider traveling at non-peak times when buses are not as full and if you are undertaking short trips, consider walking or cycling.
- When queuing for the bus, passengers should keep a minimum of one metre from other passengers.
- Use non-cash payment options whenever this is possible (get a Greencard and top it up before you get on the bus where this option applies); provide the correct fare if you need to pay with cash.
- Practice good hygiene and be considerate of others when on the bus.
- Comply with any requests from drivers – they are providing a critical service for the Tasmanian community and are doing a great job.

It will not always be possible to apply distancing where there are large passenger numbers seeking to use a service – this will not occur often.

Adults seeking to board a bus which has a high number of passengers are asked to consider waiting for the next service, however this request does not apply to children.

Bus operators are also responding by increasing the frequency of cleaning of buses with a focus on high volume touch points.

The Department of State Growth will be providing posters to bus operators to place on buses to remind passengers of the measures they can take.

Public transport, including school buses, continues to operate in Tasmania and as essential services are not subject to the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings or social distancing.