

Conditions for Taxis in the context of COVID-19

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When scaling down the current measures in accordance with the latest Ministerial Regulation General regulations for combating COVID-19, it is essential that everyone maintains their preventive measures with regard to social distance and hygiene. To this end, conditions with the minimum requirements have been drawn up by the Department of Public Health. Enforcement of all required measures is the responsibility of each Taxi driver and can be checked upon by the authorities. In this case the measures listed below will be checked. In the event of non-compliance, the Taxi driver in question may be instructed to cancel his/her service in accordance with the above mentioned laws and regulations.

This document is based on guidance and recommendations developed by WHO and other international guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its purpose is to acknowledge the special role of Taxi drivers in COVID-19 preparedness, and response through:

- Ensuring that any transportation of passengers is based on a sound risk assessment and in line with guidance from the Aruban authority.
- Ensuring safety of passengers and Taxi drivers during transport.

Measures for transportation of passengers by Taxis

COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or talks. These droplets can land on people or be breathed in by those close by. During transportation of passengers by taxis the following steps should be taken to reduce the threat of COVID-19. If the following measures are not possible the transportation should be cancelled.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette by drivers and passengers

- Drivers who are sick should stay home.
- Taxi service to a visibly ill passenger with respiratory complaints (cough, shortness, sore throat) should be refused, and passenger should be encouraged to call the Call Center 280 0101 for COVID-19 testing (operating hours 8:00 am – 4:00 pm).
- Alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 % alcohol for both drivers and passengers should be used before each ride. If hands are visibly dirty, handwashing with soap and water is preferred if feasible. Avoid touching face, nose and mouth.
- Drivers and passengers should cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Drivers should monitor supplies to ensure adequate amounts of hand sanitizer, tissues and plastic bags for driver and passenger use in every vehicle. Ensure supplies are maintained.
- Use hand sanitizer after handling money or helping with a passenger's personal items.
- Encourage digital payment (swipe) if feasible.
- Post signs for cough and sneeze etiquette and hand sanitizing in vehicles where the information can be seen by passengers (e.g. in a clear plastic sleeve). Consult www.arubacovid19.org.

Environmental cleaning and disinfection of vehicles

- Frequently touched surfaces are most likely to be contaminated with the virus that causes COVID-19. Examples of high-touch surfaces in vehicles include car door handles, arm rests, buttons for windows and locks, and seatbelts.
- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants (e.g. bleach, ammonium, Hydrogen peroxide, etc.) are effective against COVID-19.
- **In addition to routine cleaning, surfaces that have frequent contact with hands should be cleaned and disinfected after each ride.**

Additional preventive measures while transporting passengers

- Passengers may not sit in the front passenger seat and should sit in the back seat to maintain physical distance.
- Do not offer shared rides. This is to prevent that passengers are travelling with individuals unknown to them.
- It is strongly recommended to install a physical barrier such as plexiglass shields between the driver and passenger in the back seat.
- If there is no plexiglass (or other physical barrier) installed and physical distancing cannot be maintained between driver and passengers, passengers 12 years and older are required to wear a face mask.
- It is required to lower vehicle windows to increase airflow between rides. This is also recommended during rides.
- An attendance list must be kept and should include the name, address and phone number of at least one contact person per family. The driver is also required to hand out a business card. This is to facilitate contact tracing should it be necessary.

For additional information see the following WHO and other guidelines:

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/advice-for-workplace-clean-19-03-2020.pdf>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/guidance-for-schools-workplaces-institutions>

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/8d19-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Taxi-Ride-Share-Employers-Drivers-Vehicle-Owners.pdf>

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA4021.pdf>