

# Health Advice for Passengers Using Public Transport on the Prevention of Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent

According to the advice from Department of Health, passengers using public transport are advised to take the following precautionary measures inside train/vehicle/ferry compartments to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading novel infectious disease:

## During normal daily life

### 1. Keep carriages clean

- Do not bring any bird or live poultry.
- Do not spit.
- Do not litter. Put refuse into the rubbish bins provided at bus stops/railway platforms/concourses.
- Use a vomit bag to hold vomitus if you feel nauseous.

### 2. Maintain good personal hygiene

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Perform hand hygiene <sup>Note 1</sup> when indicated, especially in the following situations:
  - before touching eyes, nose and mouth,
  - before handling food or eating;
  - after sneezing, coughing, cleaning the nose and going to toilet;
  - after handling dollar notes or coins; and
  - after touching public installations or equipment, such as escalator handrails, elevator control panels or door knobs.

### 3. Maintain cough etiquette

- Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids, then wash hands thoroughly.
- If you develop respiratory symptoms or fever, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.

### 4. Wear a surgical mask

- Passengers using public transport are recommended to wear a surgical mask, if:
  - they have symptoms of respiratory infection or fever; or
  - they care for patients with respiratory infection or fever.

## During the Serious Response Level for the Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent

### *Additional measures to the above*

#### 1. Wear a surgical mask

- Passengers using public transport should wear a surgical mask, especially:
  - during peak hours of travel.
  - inside enclosed train/vehicle/vessel compartments

#### 2. Ensure good ventilation inside vehicle/vessel compartments

- Keep windows open as appropriate and where possible <sup>Note 2</sup>.

#### 3. Call for assistance

- If you suspect that you have contracted influenza,
  - please call for ambulance service to the hospital;
  - if you are at a public transport station/pier, or inside a train/vehicle/vessel compartment, you may request assistance from the driver or operational staff of the public transport organization to call for ambulance service or the Marine Police to the hospital.

Note 1: When visibly dirty, hands should be washed with soap and water. Disinfect hands by rubbing them with 70% alcohol solution when hand washing facilities are not available or when hands are not visibly soiled.

Note 2: Not applicable to train.