



Week: 17th – 23rd January 2020

Big Idea of the Week:

Safe Travels Today for a Healthy Tomorrow

Every day, drivers help many of us get to work, school, the market, the hospital, and our homes. Taking less passengers has made it challenging for some drivers to stay in business and created longer wait times for passengers.

However, now is not the time to be slack about rules put in place to protect drivers and passengers from coronavirus. Cases of coronavirus in Sierra Leone have gone up sharply in recent weeks and the virus mainly spreads by being in close contact with someone who has the virus – even if they don't look or feel sick. The more space there is between people, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

Taking only the limit for passengers and only those with face mask helps avoid delays and fines by law enforcement and helps keep everyone safe. Let's keep transport running smoothly and safely for us all.

The healthier we all are, the better we can work and support our families.

Corona fet na we all fet!

Suggestions for people to interview

- Heads of transport unions
- Drivers
- Police officers
- People who have had coronavirus
- People who use transport for everyday needs
- Community leaders

Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions

- Why is it important to not pack transport with too many passengers?
- Why should we wear face masks correctly the whole time when taking transport?
- What can we do if a driver stops to pick up extra passengers when already carrying the limit?
- What challenges might you face when taking transport if the vehicle is carrying too many passengers?
- What role does everyone (drivers, passengers, law enforcement) play in making sure we keep transport running smoothly and safely for all?

Additional messages

For Drivers/Riders

If you take passengers over the limit or allow people to board your vehicle, bike or kekeh without face masks, you are putting everyone's health at risk. Other passengers depend on you to protect their safety.

Drivers should continue to help passengers keep a distance from others while on board. Remember coronavirus spreads from person to person so the more space there is between people, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

Local transport drivers and law enforcement should work together in busy areas to make sure only passengers with mask board transport.

For Passengers

Most of us use transport at some point. That means we may be riding with others who are more likely to get seriously sick from coronavirus including older people and people with other health conditions.

You have a responsibility to always wear a mask to protect fellow passengers. You don't know if they have other health conditions that can make them more likely to get seriously sick if they get the virus.

Wearing a mask every time you are riding in any form of public transport helps protect you and helps protect others.

Wearing a mask can help stop the spread of coronavirus, but only if it is used correctly by covering your mouth and nose. Remember – coronavirus is not spread from our chins; it is spread from our noses and mouths. So please let us wear our face masks over our noses and mouths at all times in transport.

Without a mask, a driver has the right to refuse to take you. Without a mask, both you and the driver can be fined.

Getting stopped by the police also can make you late and create stress. Wearing your mask will keep you moving and avoid stress.

If a vehicle pulls over to pick you but there is already the limit of passengers or the driver or others are not wearing a mask, it is okay to say you will wait for the next vehicle.

GoSL Enhanced COVID-19 Prevention Measures for local transport

All transport parks must have hand washing stations. Use them to wash your hands when entering and leaving the park and before getting into any vehicle.

All kinds of motor transport will continue to help passengers keep distance from others. Coronavirus spreads from person to person so putting space between people will make it harder for the virus to spread.

- Taxis will continue to be limited to three passengers at a time (one front, two at the back seat).
- Kekehs will continue to be limited to two passengers at a time.
- In poda-podas and buses, there will continue to be no middle row seat and no standing.
- Ferries and boats must not carry more than half of their normal capacity of passengers at a time. Less people on board gives passengers room to keep safe distance of at least one meter, or arms-stretched length, from others.

Anyone using public transport, including drivers, who is not wearing a mask, may be fined one hundred thousand Leones (Le100,000) or detained by police. If a driver or passenger is found not wearing a mask for a second time, the vehicle will be seized.

All seized motorbikes and tricycles may be reclaimed on payment of a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand Leones (Le250,000) and one million Leones for cars and buses (Le1,000,000).

If a vehicle is not reclaimed within one month, it will be permanently impounded and disposed of.