



Coronavirus

Protection against infection in the taxi business

Information for companies with driving personnel

EN



There are not many other industries in which the regulations regarding the minimum distance from other people are as difficult to comply with as in the taxi business. Nevertheless, there are numerous measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of infection for drivers and passengers. In addition to comprehensive hygiene measures in the vehicle, the installation of suitable partitions can improve health protection during the coronavirus crisis.

As little personal contact as possible

- Limit the number of passengers. The passenger seat is off limits during the coronavirus crisis. In at least one region, authorities recommend limiting the carriage of passengers to one person in standard taxis and two persons in wide body taxis. Other authorities leave it to the driver's discretion. Indi-

vidual passengers should sit at the back right if possible.

- Organise shift changes so that drivers do not have direct contact with each other. This prevents infection from spreading amongst employees.
- The communication between driver and passenger should be limited to the essentials. When speaking, small droplets escape from the mouth, which can be carriers of the virus. During the coronavirus pandemic: speech is silver, silence is healthy.
- The fare is to be paid cashless. The card terminal must be disinfected regularly.
- To avoid misunderstandings: communicate your protective measures via a notice or leaflet in the vehicle.

Support infection protection of the driving personnel

- Drivers should wash their hands regularly. It is therefore advisable to include a hand disinfectant (at least partially virucidal) – or a water canister, hand soap, and disposable towels.
- Since drivers and passengers in taxis are normally unable to keep the minimum distance apart, they should wear face masks or at least cover their mouths and noses with scarves or cloths during the journey.
- For patient transport (e.g. for dialysis or chemotherapy), different regulations for the protection of patients apply depending on the federal state. FFP2 masks are prescribed in some cases, face masks more frequently. Instruction is necessary before using medical masks.

Best practice

In order to avoid conflicts with the passengers, one large taxi company indicates restrictions on the choice of seats and the number of passengers per vehicle when accepting transport orders. Another taxi control centre is responding to passenger requests for the taxi to be equipped with partitions.

Installation and use of partitions

Within a short period of time, suppliers from various industries, as well as inventors, have developed partition walls and sheets which separate the rear row of seats from the working area of the driver. This is recommended. Although the partitions do not fully prevent the transmission of the virus through aerosols (very fine liquid particles in the air), they do reduce the risk of droplet infection by protecting against spitting and sneezing.

There are currently no uniform statements from the authorities or testing organisations, but it is becoming apparent that fixed partitions are regarded as a registration-relevant change to the vehicle. The following should be noted:

- It must be clarified with the provider whether a general operating permit is available.
- The material must always be shock and splinter resistant. The partition wall shall be checked to see whether it affects the deployment of airbags.

An alternative to installing a rigid pane is to use a film or sheet as a partition. Better sealing can often be achieved this way. Furthermore, the passenger is not exposed to any additional danger during braking or in the event of a collision.

Cleaning contact surfaces in and on the vehicle

Vehicles that are used by several drivers must be cleaned as follows:

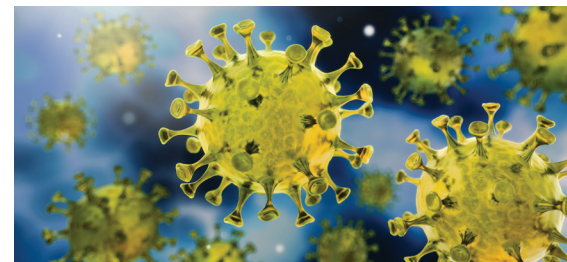
- Make sure that operating elements, handles, partitions (if applicable), and other surfaces are thoroughly cleaned with grease-dissolving household cleaners. Disposable cloths soaked in detergent or soapy water are ideal for this purpose and should then be disposed of. Chemical disinfectants (at least partially virucidal) can be used as an alternative – however they do not promise any additional benefit.
- Partition walls or partition films should be carefully cleaned after each conveyance as described above.
- Ventilate the vehicle thoroughly at every opportunity and do not use the air conditioning in recirculation mode.

In case of illness of employees

If employees show symptoms of the virus, they should – after making an appointment by telephone – see a doctor and/or report to the relevant health authority. Important: Do not get behind the wheel whilst ill under any circumstances.

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Quick question

Which recommendations for infection protection should companies follow?

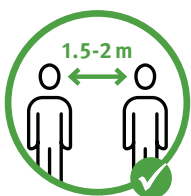
The regulations of the federal states and, if applicable, of the local authorities also apply to those insured with BG Verkehr. The BMAS occupational health and safety standard and its industry-related specification by BG Verkehr must be observed. In everyday work, company doctors and occupational safety specialists are qualified contact persons.

Current information from BG Verkehr
Industry-specific specification of the BMAS occupational safety standards:
www.bg-verkehr.de/coronavirus

Media from the DGUV (free of charge)
[Flyer: Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 – \(Suspected\) cases of illness in the company](#)
[Poster: Coronavirus – General protective measures](#)

Further information
www.rki.de
www.infektionsschutz.de

General protective measures



Maintain at least **1.5 m distance** from others!



Wash hands regularly and thoroughly with **soap and water** for **30 seconds!**



Cough and sneeze into the **crook of your arm**, not into your hand!