

Recommendations for change to Bus and Coach Transport Restrictions

There are a range of government restrictions that impact on the restart and operation of road and water tourism transport services. This proposal reflects industry recommendations on how point to point bus and coach operations (such as tourist coaches, school excursion buses etc.) can reopen and operate in a COVIDSafe way.

The proposal aims to create a platform that enables the bus and coach industry, including both their point to point and excursion services, to operate according to requirements that are more feasible than the current restrictions.

The proposal reflects only one step on the path to full restart based on bus and coach operating at a 50% capacity rather than the existing restrictions. Although this is not sustainable from a business perspective in the long term, it will provide an effective and safe first step for these important tourism businesses. The successful and safe operation of this step will then create a platform for a more sustainable medium to long term operating environment for these important tourism services. The proposal would take a Coach of 57 seat capacity to 28 plus the driver (as opposed to 14 under the current arrangements)¹.

Draft Capacity Measures and Risk Mitigation

	Tourist Transport (Coaches and Buses)
Proposed Capacity	Bus and coach capacity up to a maximum of half* the normal/approved capacity. With the exception of household groups (which may be seated next to each other) passengers need front to back with one seat of every two to be occupied.
Risk Mitigation – Infection Best practice guidelines	<p>Prior to Departure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing promotional material and hand sanitizer available. • Deep cleaning of all vehicles with COVID eliminating disinfectant. • Cleaning staff wearing gloves and masks to limit cross-contamination. • Online check-in and payment or ticketing staff behind screens /contactless terminals. • Passenger only waiting areas with 1.5m social distancing in place. • Passenger areas deep cleaned between services, including bathrooms*. <p>Boarding (Pre and Post)</p>

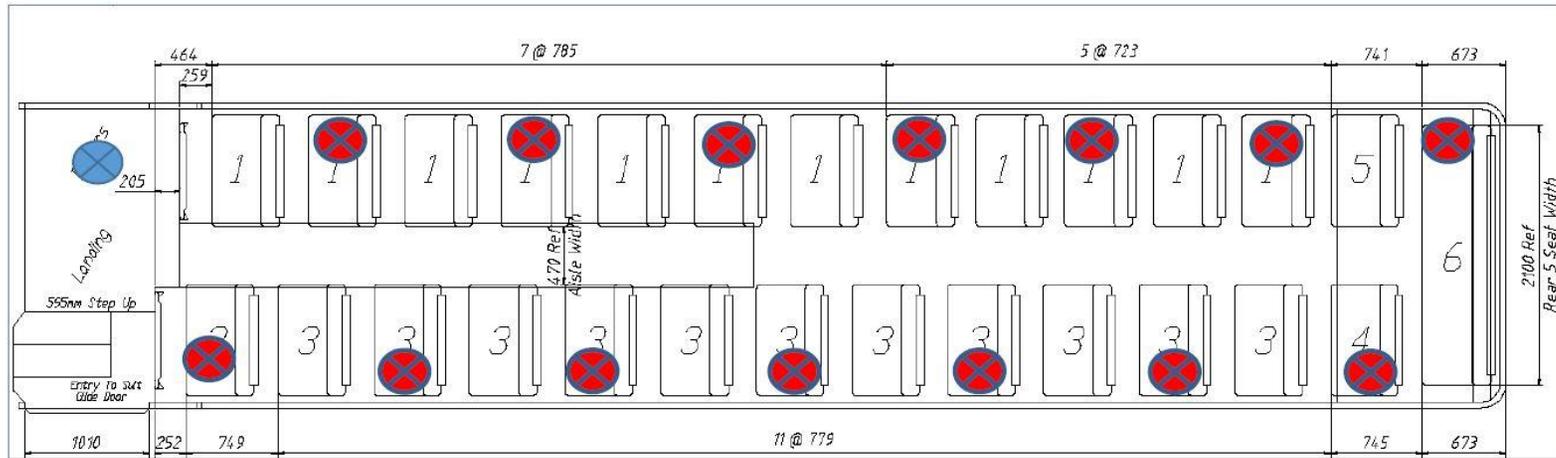
¹ See Figure (i)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing promotional material and hand sanitizer available. • Socially distanced boarding (1.5m for non-household groups) – informed by signage and driver / staff announcements. • Touchless boarding passes (where appropriate). <p>On Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front to Back seating only to be used². • Temperature testing of drivers and staff. • Drivers offered to wear effective masks. • No cash payments • Separate entry and exit through rear and middle door entry <u>where available</u>. • Promotion of Handwashing and Hand Sanitiser available. • For Coaches that are air conditioned and air sealed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HEPA filters in every coach that will refresh the air every few minutes, and remove all viruses and bacteria including coronaviruses; ○ All passengers temperature checked on boarding and encouraged to wear masks on board, in return – all front to back seating can be occupied.
Risk Mitigation – Tracing – Best practice guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote COVID Safe App • Customer Tracing through Bookings • Eliminate non-passenger areas
Risk Mitigation – Staff Awareness – best practice guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of all staff in COVID Safety. • Require staff to stay at home if symptomatic in anyway. • Have all staff aware of the plan to react to a positive case among staff, customers or suppliers / contractors.

Best Practice Bathroom Guidelines across all hospitality:

- * Public bathroom measures include hourly cleaning of all surfaces and soap dispensers replenished regularly.
- * Hand towel bins next to doors and hourly cleaning of door handles.
- * Hand sanitiser available on exit.
- * Handwashing and COVID Safety signage, and
- * Clear social distancing signage to be placed in bathrooms.

² Figure (ii)



 Passengers numbers = 14.

 Driver

Figure (i)



Figure (ii)