

## REQUIREMENT TO WEAR MASKS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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### Principle

On the basis of Article 3a of the COVID-19-Ordinance on the special situation (Covid-19-Verordnung zur besonderen Lage) and the explanations regarding this ordinance, passengers are required to wear face masks on public transport vehicles from 6 July 2020.

There are exceptions for:

- a. children up to the age of 12;
- b. people who cannot wear face masks for particular reasons, in particular for medical reasons.

The requirement applies to public transport vehicles, such as trains, trams, buses, boats and cableways (not definitive).

The requirement does not apply at stations, on platforms or when waiting at a bus stop. The requirement does not apply to restaurants or bars on boats or trains, though they must have a protection plan.

The mask may be removed when eating a small picnic where eating on the vehicle is in principle allowed.

On cross-border services, the requirement to wear masks applies – regulations from abroad concerning foreign territory notwithstanding – from borders and within Switzerland.

Passengers are themselves responsible for ensuring they are in possession of a face mask for travel by public transport. Scarves or other generic fabric items are not face masks.

The rules of the public transport protection plan continue to apply, in particular the distancing and hygiene rules.

### Vehicles where masks must be worn

Details about public transport vehicles on board which masks must be worn:

Public transport vehicles are vehicles for transporting passengers run by companies with a concession under Article 6 or a permit under Article 8 of the Act on the carriage of passengers of 20 March 2009 (Personenbeförderungsgesetz, PBG, classified compilation 745.1). The PBG governs the regular commercial carriage of persons by rail, road, waterway, cableway, elevator and other means of transport bound to the route of their infrastructure (Art. 1 paragraph 2 PBG).

In the vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, face masks must be worn; this also applies to the open deck of boats.

The cabins on board tourist transport services are also notably classified as vehicles for the purposes of this Act (cf. Art. 2 paragraph 2 letter b of PBG). The only exceptions are ski lifts and chair lifts; in this case, the stipulations of the operator's protection plan apply.

## Implementation

To ensure implementation, drivers and other staff can help enforce this requirement where feasible.

Current staff responsibilities and rules for using public transport continue to apply:

1. Public transport staff are to make customers aware of the requirement to wear a mask (e.g. announcement, single conversations), as they currently do for example in cases of indecent behaviour. Public transport staff are not responsible for ensuring passengers wear masks.
2. Staff who check tickets can order people without a mask to alight at the next stop.

Greater powers rest with the security units defined by the Federal Act on the Security Units of Public Transport Companies (PTSA, classified compilation 745.2), i.e. the security service and the SBB police.

They are required to ensure the observance of the conditions of carriage and use (Art. 3 paragraph 1 letter a PTSA). They can stop, check and eject persons who have contravened the conditions of carriage (Art. 4 paragraph 1 letter b PTSA). Anyone who disobeys the orders of these persons will be charged a penalty.

The sanction in Article 83 paragraph 1 letter j of the Epidemics Act (Epidemiengesetz, EpG) may also be applied. The prosecution and trial of such offences is a cantonal matter (Art. 9 PTSA and Art. 84 paragraph 1 EpG).

No specific penalty for disorderly behaviour has been laid down.

## Communication

Each individual is responsible for following the requirement to wear a face mask. This requirement will be communicated actively by the transport companies.

- Replacement of the pictogram campaign with the public transport protection poster (Phase I Awareness Raising) with adapted images and texts.
- Messages communicated must be adapted to the new situation (requirement to wear masks) on public transport and made available to passengers before and during their journey using all available channels
  - Digital: online, screens, announcements etc.
  - Print: posters, paper displays etc.

## Staff

The requirement to wear a face mask also applies to staff on board the vehicle.

- Drivers are not to wear a mask in their cabs for safety reasons. Staff must wear masks when selling tickets on buses, when passing through the passenger area or on the steps.
- To communicate clearly with people who are hard of hearing, staff can notably remove the mask.
- The transport companies will adapt their internal protection plans and instructions for staff.
- The transport companies will ensure that staff who are required to wear masks are provided with them.