



# CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

Nonprofit Company (Reg No. 1955/000003/08)  
Nonprofit Organisation (Reg. No. 009-874 NPO)  
Vat No. 4210273191

## OFFICE OF THE CEO

Email: [eric.buch@cmsa.co.za](mailto:eric.buch@cmsa.co.za)

Tel: +27 (0)11 726 7037

Cell: +27 (0)83 391 6962

Website: [www.cmsa.co.za](http://www.cmsa.co.za)

General: [general@cmsa.co.za](mailto:general@cmsa.co.za)

Accounts: [accounts@cmsa.co.za](mailto:accounts@cmsa.co.za)

Membership: [members@cmsa.co.za](mailto:members@cmsa.co.za)

## Media Statement College of Public Health Medicine (SA) re new Taxi Regulations

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

The COVID-19 Evidence-based Task Team of the College of Public Health Medicine<sup>1</sup> (CPHM) provides independent guidance to inform the implementation of optimal measures to reduce the chance of infection with SARS-CoV-2 in public settings. At the onset of the epidemic in South Africa, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, the Task Team published guidance on measures to reduce transmission when using public ground transport. This was based on a thorough rapid review of the data. The guidance included the need to:

1. **Ventilate** – regulations should ensure windows *on both sides* of vehicle are open to allow air to ventilate through; AND
2. Regulate for **no more than 50%** of carrying capacity for vehicle

We noted then and continue to reiterate now that **ventilation and reduced capacity are not optional choices and both must be implemented** in combination as both measures are necessary to reduce transmission. The proposed changes to regulations for taxi operators as outlined by the President on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 are concerning because they may substantially increase risk for transmission of COVID-19.

We therefore call on the President and the Cabinet to review this decision and to engage again with taxi operators to develop feasible strategies to reduce passenger loads, which will protect the health of commuters and taxi drivers.

In addition to the above, **masks are now a mandatory measure** and masks of appropriate quality should be used by both taxi drivers and commuters.

Infection prevention and control practices at transport hubs include regular cleaning of surfaces and provision of sanitizer, facilities for hand-washing, physical distancing practices and staggered queuing, which should be appropriately martialled.

For more evidence-based public health guidance from the Task Team, see the College of Medicine website: <https://www.cmsa.co.za/> > COVID-19 Guidance. For questions, contact Professor London; email: [leslie.london@uct.ac.za](mailto:leslie.london@uct.ac.za) or 0791896368.

Professor Eric Buch  
Chief Executive Officer: Colleges of  
Medicine of South Africa

Professor Leslie London  
President: College of Public Health  
Medicine

<sup>1</sup> The CPHM-SA is responsible for training and accrediting public health medicine specialists in South Africa