



COVID-19 at Work: understanding transmission in the public transport sector

By enhancing knowledge and understanding of transmission in the public transport sector, as well as the risk perceptions of operators, staff and passengers, this study will support the sharing of lessons learned, good practice and information sources across the industry and between its sub-sectors.

Study findings will help generate recommendations to help government and the sector as a whole respond more effectively to infectious disease outbreaks and keep transport services operating, while also highlighting gaps in information resources and where further research is needed.

A [rapid review of existing literature](#) was conducted to inform the study design, and partnerships were established with a wide group of sector stakeholders and experts, including government, researchers, regulators and industry. These helped identify existing work programmes, ensuring the study was complementary and focused on answering the most important questions.

The project aims to address the following:

- What are the **perceptions of risk** of transmission among the various stakeholders (experts, operators, unions, workers, passengers) within the public transport sector?
- What **mitigations** are being put in place, and what is the **perceived effectiveness** of these risk mitigation strategies? Are these perceptions different between the stakeholders?
- What are the **major knowledge gaps** that will need to be addressed in the short and longer term?

The research is taking place in two stages:

- **Phase 1:** interviews with stakeholders, including sector experts, regulators, operators, researchers, workers, unions and passengers. 47 interviews were carried out between January and May 2021. [The report on this phase has now been published.](#)
- **Phase 2:** interviews with a sub-sample of the original respondents, taking place between December 2021 and February 2022. These will investigate whether perceptions have changed since Phase 1, particularly as a result of major changes to government rules and advice in the intervening period.

Project team

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