THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MATTERS INITIATIVE

# Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens: Public Transportation

*A Virtual Workshop: The Third Workshop in a Series*

**November 16th, 2022 12:00-3:00pm EDT**

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The Environmental Health Matters Initiative (EHMI) of the National Academies invites you to register for the third workshop in our three-part series on Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens building upon the 2020 workshop on the airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2. This last workshop will focus on public ground transportation. These workshops explore strategies needed for airborne disease control and risk reduction in enclosed places by drawing on accumulated community and institutional knowledge, on-the-ground observations of indoor environments management during the pandemic, and novel and promising scientific discoveries.

For this third workshop in the Indoor Air Management series, participants will review the state of knowledge and strategies on how to prevent and control transmission of airborne pathogens in public transit, highlighting progress made since 2020 and identifying critical research, implementation, and regulatory gaps. Participants will also discuss their lived experiences during the pandemic through case studies, and engage around key themes in a moderated panel discussion. Finally, participants will help identify promising practices to be adopted at different levels to make access to transportation equitable and safe. In addition to experts from a variety of disciplines and sectors involved in previous workshops, this third workshop will also include participants who worked directly with local communities and transportation organizations during the pandemic. These participants will bring in the discussion on-the-ground experience, solutions adopted, and other areas for improvement at the local level.

**Your Voice Matters! Please fill out this brief anonymous questionnaire for the workshop!**

# Wednesday, November 16th

(All times in U.S. Eastern Time)

Zoom Link to access the meeting: https://nasem.zoom.us/j/94295340405?pwd=azYvcU82NDNGazk0ZndvODY2ZWtwQT09 – Passcode: 229525

To access Slido to submit or see questions go here

12:00pm **Welcome and Meeting Overview**

**Linsey Marr**, Virginia Tech

12:15pm **Session 1: State of Knowledge**

*The goals of this session are to review the state of knowledge concerning research regarding public transportation safety and management to reduce the transmission of airborne pathogens equitably.*

- *What is the current state of public transportation ridership? How has this changed since March 2020?*
- *What design-related interventions have been shown to be effective at reducing transmission in transportation?*
- *What impact would interventions have on other common infections in public transportation?*

## Speakers

- ***Airborne Transmission of Infectious Diseases on Public Transportation***
  - **Susan Grant-Muller**, University of Leeds
- ***SEPTA Forward - Response to and Ridership Recovery from the Pandemic***
  - **Jody Holton**, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

## Panelists:

- **Madeleine Parker**, University of California, Berkeley
- **Jason DeGraw**, Oak Ridge National Lab

1:10pm **Session 2: Case studies - On-the-ground experience**

*Shared experience through a set of case studies in different geographic locations, where participants worked directly with local communities and state transportation during the pandemic. These participants will discuss their experience balancing the safety of the travelers and workers while navigating external expectations, imposed policies, and technologies with varying levels of proven efficacies*

## Speakers:

- ***Case Study #1 – COVID-19 Research Driven by Public Transit-University Partnerships: Case Study of SEPTA-Drexel Collaboration in Philadelphia***
  - **Christopher Sales**, Drexel University
- ***Case Study #2 – Preventing Outbreaks on Ground Transportation***
  - **Yuguo Li**, the University of Hong Kong
- ***Case Study #3 – NYC Transit Workers: An Essential Workforce***
  - **Robyn Gershon**, NYU School of Public Health
- ***Case Study #4 – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Response to COVID-19***
  - **Kit Conway**, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- ***Case Study #5 - UCL VIRAL: Reducing the Risk of Virus Transmission on London's Public Transport Vehicles***
  - **Lena Ciric and Liora Malki-Epshtein**, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, University College London

1:50pm ***Break***

1:55pm **Session 3: Implementation - Knowledge and Research to Action**

*The goal of this panel would be to understand how to synchronize the different levels of decision-makers and what the appropriate roles are for each, in addition to identifying gaps that exist.*

- *What are the barriers to implementing best practices more widely, besides funding?*
- *What do we need to do to move the needle? Who would do it?*
- *What are the most critical lessons you have learned these past two years that can translate to actions in the future?*
- *If a transportation authority can do only one thing to improve transportation safety, what should it be? Who should be in charge of doing this?*

Panelists

- **Katherine Ratliff**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **Jennifer DeBruhl**, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- **Cath Noakes**, University of Leeds
- **Nathan Edwards**, U.S. Partnership for Assured Electronics
- **Brian Sherlock**, Amalgamated Transit Union International

2:50pm **Wrap-up - Key learning from the discussion**

**Linsey Marr**, Virginia Tech

3:00pm **Adjourn**