



## Phase 3 Reopening Guidance for Transit Agencies

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response

July 1, 2020

As the Commonwealth and the rest of the world have faced this unprecedented situation, public transportation has maintained its role as an essential element of our critical infrastructure. The rides you provide to individuals who have no other means of transportation, or who are traveling to and from the front lines, are key to the wellbeing of our citizens.

We know public transportation agencies have been working diligently in order to maintain operations and ensure the health and safety of their customers and employees. And in this extraordinary situation, we know there are questions about what is safe and what should come next. You are the experts in your field, and DRPT is here to support you as you continue to fulfill your community's public transit needs.

The following are guidelines that may be helpful as you support Virginia's phased reopening. If you have specific questions, please reach out to your program manager.

#### Travel Management:

- Consider posting signs on vehicles to communicate to the public that they should not take transit if they are sick. Signs should be in appropriate languages for the community and could include graphics to aid understanding.
- Continue to use rear-door boarding, where possible, to increase separation on buses.
- Where practical, limit seating to ensure 6 feet of distance between passengers. As the Commonwealth continues its phased reopening, more people are likely to use public transportation, and social distancing may become harder to enforce.
  - Transit agencies could consider adding additional buses on popular routes to encourage social distancing.

#### Face Coverings:

- The Governor has mandated the use of face coverings for those able to safely wear them. Transit agencies may choose to provide face masks to riders to increase compliance with this order.
  - [Executive Order 63](#)
- For additional protection, consider installing [safety-compliant](#) partitions around the driver area on transit vehicles and at staffed kiosks or desks.
  - Utilize floor decals or colored tape to indicate where the public should not sit or stand.

#### Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily. These include restroom surfaces, kiosks, elevator buttons, door handles, etc.

- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect the operator area between operator shifts.
- Conduct routine cleaning of common staff areas, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, etc.
- Ensure that ventilation systems are operating properly; increase outdoor air circulation to the greatest extent as possible.

General Guidance:

- Establish and maintain communication with state and local health officials. These relationships will provide valuable information that can be used to guide service changes as area infection rates rise and fall.
- Transit agencies should continue to track their expenses and lost revenue throughout the state of emergency.

Resources:

- Forward Virginia: <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia/>
- CDC’s Mass Transit Decision Tree: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/MassTransit-DecisionTree.pdf>
- American Public Transportation Association’s COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.apta.com/public-transit-response-to-coronavirus/>
- Community Transportation Association of America’s COVID-19 Resources: <https://ctaa.org/covid-19-resources/>
- CDC’s What Bus Transit Operators Need to Know About COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html>
- CDC’s What Transit Station Workers Need to Know About COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/transit-station-workers.html>
- CDC’s Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>