
Guidance for Transit in a Public Health Emergency

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Virginia's Early Action

- Transit operating guidance issued out of the COVID-19 Unified Command – Joint Information Center on March 30 and April 6
 - Transit as an essential service
 - Guidance/best practices for operations
 - Shutdown procedures
- Moving into phase 1 reopening on May 15 – except for NOVA
 - New guidance in development



March 30 Guidance

- Transit use should be limited to essential trips only
- Transit agencies should closely monitor employee absenteeism
- Transit agencies should suspend fare collection for fixed-route services, where practical
- Use rear-door boarding, where possible, to increase separation on buses
- Limit vehicle capacity to ensure that passengers maintain social distancing
- Focus on lifeline services - prioritize routes that serve medical facilities, employment centers that are critical to the supply chain, access to core needs

April 6 – Additional Guidance

- Public transportation is an essential service
- Established expectation that all transit systems would maintain a minimum level of service, even during the “stay at home” order
- To the extent possible, transit agencies should provide advance notice of major service interruptions
- Required transit agencies to follow direction of local and state public health and law enforcement agencies in making service decisions
- Required systems considering full shutdown to contact DRPT prior to taking such an action

Reopening Guidance - Pending

- Safer at Home – Phase 1 begins Friday, May 15 (except for Northern Virginia)
- Continuing much of the prior guidance
- Key points of discussion:
 - Face coverings
 - Safety-compliant partitions and other social distancing techniques
- Anticipate further guidance as additional phases are implemented (total of 3 in Forward Virginia plan)



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