

# WHAT IS RIPTA DOING TO KEEP PASSENGERS AND EMPLOYEES SAFE?



The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has been working hard through the COVID-19 health crisis to keep our state moving in the safest manner possible. RIPTA has continued its regular service throughout the pandemic, fully aware of the important role we play in getting employees to essential jobs and also the fact that we are lifeline service for people needing groceries, prescriptions and more. Our efforts continue as Rhode Island carefully reopens. We would like to share with you some of the steps we are taking to ensure the safety of the public and our employees. As people's daily routines and become more normalized – even if it is a new normal – we want to be there for your transportation needs.

## WE WELCOME YOU TO A SAFE, CLEAN RIDE WITH RIPTA.

### CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- We are following hygiene, cleaning and disinfection protocols as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).
- We are dedicating approximately 200 manpower hours every day to cleaning and disinfecting our fleet of buses and paratransit vehicles.
- All vehicles are cleaned and disinfected at least once day, with attention to high-touch areas such as handrails, fareboxes and more.
- We use EPA-approved anti-viral cleaning agents in order to maintain the highest level of sanitation.
- We have increased cleaning at all of our facilities – including employee and public areas, again with a focus on high-touch surfaces.
- We continue to research and, when possible, implement new, more efficient ways to disinfect our vehicles, including the use of foggers and other applicators for disinfectants.



### STAY INFORMED

We are constantly updating important information on our website and social media. Please keep checking [RIPTA.com](http://RIPTA.com) frequently or follow us on Facebook or Twitter. You can also sign up for email alerts from RIPTA by filling out the form at the bottom of our website.



## HOW EMPLOYERS CAN HELP

Do you have employees who use ride RIPTA for their commute? You can help them avoid busy travel times when buses are more likely to be near capacity. Please consider staggered or flexible work hours that will give our passengers more travel options and a chance to use transit during less busy commute times when it is easier to find room for social distancing.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- We will continue to follow state guidelines regarding the maximum capacity allowed on our vehicles. Visit [ripta.com/covid-19](https://ripta.com/covid-19) for updates.
- We continue to deploy extra vehicles on some of our busier routes to make sure there is sufficient room for riders.
- All of our drivers have been provided with cloth face coverings distributed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- We encourage passengers to be aware of their surroundings when waiting at bus stops and bus shelters, and also be respectful of keeping an appropriate distance when lining up to board a vehicle.
- Internally, we are limiting the physical presence of employees in our administrative offices. In our operational areas, everyone has been given appropriate personal protection equipment and instructed on how to use it as well as given guidelines on proper social distancing.
- Passengers are strongly advised to wear cloth face coverings as required by the state. The only exceptions should be children under the age of 2 or persons whose health would be damaged by wearing a mask.

### SCREENING AND TESTING

- The State of Rhode Island has offered free COVID-19 testing to public transit drivers, even if they are asymptomatic. RIPTA is encouraging drivers to take part in this testing program.
- RIPTA has strict protocols for employees seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

### SERVICE LEVELS

RIPTA has not reduced the level of service or buses on the road.

## WHAT PASSENGERS CAN DO TO RIDE SAFER

There is no doubt that, along with our drivers, our passengers are our frontline when it comes to helping keep public transportation safe. We count on our passengers to follow all recommendations of the State and the Rhode Island Department of Health and follow simple, common sense guidelines when riding with us. These steps include:

**WEAR A MASK.** It's easy, it works and it shows respect for your driver and fellow passengers.

**PRACTICE** social distancing.

**DO NOT CROWD** bus stops or bus shelters.

**BE AWARE** of your surroundings.

Travel during **NON-PEAK HOURS**.

If you have to commute for work, ask your employer to **ADJUST YOUR HOURS** so that you can travel during less busy times.

**STAY INFORMED** at [RIPTA.com/COVID-19](https://ripta.com/COVID-19)

**WEAR** additional personal protective equipment at your discretion.