




**The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Administrative Policies and Procedures**

Subject/Title: COVID-19 Policy on Exemptions from Wearing a Face Mask on Public Transportation Conveyances.	Effective Date: February 16, 2021
	Approval:  CEO: Scott Avedisian

I. PURPOSE:

Effective February 2, 2021, pursuant to the Executive Order 13998, Promoting Covid-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act and 42 of Federal Regulations, RIPTA will require that any person, attempting to travel on a RIPTA vehicle, that is unable to wear a mask as defined below based on a disability, seek an exemption from the mask requirement in advance of travel in order for RIPTA to determine their best options for safe travel. The health and safety of passengers and our workforce is the top priority for the RIPTA as we work to keep our state moving every day.

*Executive Order 13998
Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel*

Sec. 2. Immediate Action to Require Mask-Wearing on Certain Domestic Modes of Transportation.

(a) Mask Requirement. ... shall immediately take action, to the extent appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to require masks to be worn in compliance with CDC guidelines in or on: ... (v) intercity bus services...

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(1) Persons must wear masks over the mouth and nose when traveling on conveyances into and within the United States. Persons must also wear masks at transportation hubs as defined in this Order.

DEFINITIONS: ... Mask means a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields.

II. PROCEDURE:

Anyone seeking an exemption from wearing a face mask due to a disability or medical condition mask must:

1. Contact RIPTA by calling 784-9500 x2012 to request an exemption, prior to traveling on board any RIPTA vehicle.
2. After the request is made, an Application for an Exemption from Wearing a Mask will be forwarded to the requestor. The Application must be completed in full, by both the requestor and the requestor's treating physician and returned to RIPTA's Legal Department.

* All applications will be reviewed on an individual basis. Return of a completed Application does not guarantee an exemption will be granted.

3. If the Application is approved, Customer Service will be advised and will contact the requestor in order to provide the requestor with a Mask Exemption Pass.

The Mask Exemption Pass does not entitle the pass holder to transportation. Once the Mask Exemption Pass is received, the requestor may start utilizing RIPTA's services. The Mask Exemption Pass does not replace any other RIPTA Fare Product and should be used in conjunction therewith. The Mask Exemption Pass should be shown to the RIPTA Operator at the time of Boarding.

III. REQUIREMENTS:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All passengers who are granted an exemption from wearing a face mask, at all times while traveling on a RIPTA vehicle or at a transportation hub, must:

1. Have their Mask Exemption Pass in their possession.
2. Maintain a six (6) foot distance from any other person(s).
3. Wear an alternative face covering in lieu of a mask.
4. Refrain from traveling on any RIPTA vehicle if experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 and / or were exposed to anyone who tested positive, until such time a negative test result is received.

This Policy is being issued in conjunction with RIPTA's COVID-19 Policy on Requirements for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and Transportation Hubs.