

Guidance for Florida's Transit Providers: Governor's Executive Order 20-91 Safer at Home, 04-01-2020

Florida's public transit providers are considered essential service providers as outlined in the Department of Homeland Security's Guidance on the Critical Infrastructure Workforce document attached to the Governor's Executive Order, 20-91. Transit agencies are being called upon to continue transit service utilizing strategies and best practices, including those disseminated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State and local emergency operations centers (EOCs), and other governmental organizations and agencies.

Transit providers must strike a balance between providing essential transportation services for their community and protecting those providing the service. We encourage all Florida transit providers to send their at-risk employees' home. This includes any seniors and people with underlying medical conditions as identified in the Governor's Executive Order 20-91. Additionally, the second tier of employees should be those living with or taking care of an at-risk family member. The CARES Act allows for the payment of leave expenses for these employees. More information will be available from the Federal Transit Administration in the coming days.

Limiting transportation to essential services presents numerous challenges. Maintaining service for customers working at businesses on the essential services list and transporting customers to essential services and life sustaining medical appointments are the priorities. The public should be encouraged to only use transit services for these reasons during the Safer at Home Order. Transit services are encouraged to use screening process when practical. It is important to make sure the same screening process is used for all patrons.

For those employees, both operators and maintenance technicians remaining at work, personal safety is of paramount importance during this pandemic. Each Florida public transit agency should develop and implement strategies to limit exposure. These strategies should cover vehicle operators, maintenance personnel, those who are cleaning the vehicles and public facilities, and other employees who have the potential of being exposed to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). At a minimum, transit agencies should be implementing social distancing measures, to the extent that is possible, within the entire transit environment. Some of these measures include, but are not limited to:

- Isolating the vehicle operator to the greatest extent that is possible through rear door entry for passengers, utilizing vehicles with driver compartment barriers, and limiting the availability of seating closest to the operator.
- Within the agency, all employees working onsite should isolate as much as possible and maintain six feet distance. Maintenance personnel should space out the bays in which they are working. Control rooms should limit the number of employees and space out as much as possible. Designating specific seats for occupancy by taping off or providing signage to maintain distances of at least six feet between passengers.

- Providing paid time off to employees who are ill, at-risk, or caring for an at-risk family member.
- Limiting the number of passengers allowed on the vehicle at one time.
- Implementing personal protective measures to limit transit maintenance personnel from exposure.
- Supplying and using the appropriate cleaning products, routinely cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces.
- Mandatory use of PPE to limit the transfer and exposure of the virus to vehicle operators and those employees cleaning the vehicles and other public facilities.
- Assessing transit demand and shifting resources, as necessary and practicable, to maximize efficiency and limit exposure.

We have included a recently developed ***COVID-19 – Emergency Management Tips and Practices for Bus Transit Systems*** designed for Florida’s transit agencies to support your efforts ensure the safety of your employees and riders.

We also understand that PPE and cleaning supplies are in high demand. Transit providers should continue to source items as best they can. Please see the listing of suppliers that transit agencies may access through existing state contracts on the listserv. Please continue to inform the Department if you cannot obtain needed supplies.

Additional information regarding FTA funding and the CARES Act can be found at:

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/news/coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act>.