



## Statement on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### **OPTA Ohio Needs Transit Conference & OPTA Expo 2020 Updated March 13, 2020.**

**The Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA)** is closely monitoring updates on COVID-19, the virus that causes Coronavirus. OPTA is committed to following the rules, guidance and recommendations of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health, City of Columbus, Columbus Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We thank all of our Conference and Expo participants for their patience and support at this time while we determine the impact of this health pandemic on our upcoming event.

On March 12, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH has signed an order to prohibit mass gatherings in the state of Ohio. Mass gatherings are defined as any event or convening that brings together 100 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

The City of Columbus Board of Health declared a citywide health emergency on March 13, 2020 related to the coronavirus.

At this time, OPTA is assessing its ability to safely host the **Ohio Needs Transit Conference & OPTA Expo 2020** as planned on April 20, 21 & 22, and how to comply with the new Ohio ban on mass gatherings of 100 or more persons. OPTA will notify conference attendees, exhibitors and partners as soon as possible about the Conference and Expo status as well as next steps. This notification will occur on our conference website, social media, and through direct email to attendees, exhibitors and partners.

In the meantime, OPTA urges its members and partners to help minimize the spread of the coronavirus in Ohio.

#### **Steps to Prevent the Spread of Coronavirus:**

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – discard tissue immediately into a closed bin
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay home if you have a fever or show any signs of a respiratory illness such as coughing or sneezing
- Clean all “High-Touch” surfaces every day

**For more information, visit:**

[Ohio Department of Health](#)  
[City of Columbus Public Health](#)