



NEWS RELEASE
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Ohio Public Transit Systems Take Steps to Serve Local Communities and Respond to Coronavirus

(Columbus, OH) - As new state orders are issued daily by Ohio Governor DeWine to slow the spread of the coronavirus, the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) and its members are taking proactive measures to ensure public transit continues to serve residents and communities throughout the state.

Three key priorities guide Ohio's 63 public transit providers' decisions every day during this time of uncertainty:

- To keep public transit employees safe;
- To provide service to transit customers and community partners; and
- To do help in preventing the spread of the virus.

On March 12, Ohio banned all indoor and outdoor events with more than 100 attendees to contain the spread of coronavirus. **Public transportation is not included in the ban on large group events.**

"During this time of crisis, people in rural, suburban and urban communities continue to need and depend upon public transit services," said OPTA Executive Director Laura Koprowski. "Transit is a vital link for getting people to and from essential places and services such as grocery stores, doctor offices and pharmacies."

Transit providers have increased rigorous and frequent cleaning of all hard surfaces in facilities and buses. They are taking preventative measures as recommended by the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health. Transit providers are also coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration on proper protocol and for emergency support.

Passengers can help prevent the spread of the virus by taking everyday precautions: wash hands, do not touch your face and avoid sick people. OPTA encourages Ohioans to check their local transit system's website and social media channels for the latest updates on service and protocols. OPTA also encourages customers to avoid transit centers and to purchase tickets and passes through mobile devices if available.

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