

## **The APTA Health and Safety Commitments Program talking points**

Please use the talking points below when describing the program to employees, riders, and the media.

For ease of use, these talking points have been divided into three main themes. Under each theme you will find more specifics and supporting facts about that topic.

### **1. Our system has earned the Health & Safety Commitment (HSC) seal. It means we are fulfilling the highest industry commitments for keeping transit safe during COVID-19.**

We asked more than 2,200 transit users what would make them feel safe riding public transportation. Based on those responses, our industry identified four key areas that transit systems need to address to earn riders' confidence. They are:

- Follow public health guidelines from official sources
- Protect each other by cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles and facilities frequently, and requiring face coverings and other protection
- Keep passengers informed and empowered to choose the safest times and routes to ride
- Put health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill

We've met these commitments and earned the HSC seal by adopting practices and policies that make sense for our transit system, riders and community.

Every community is at a different phase in fighting this virus, and we know our community best. Our practices meet the industry commitments and our local safety needs.

### **2. We're all in this together. Keeping public transit safe is a mutual commitment between our agency and our riders.**

Studies from around the world show no connection between using transit and transmitting COVID-19. To reassure the community even further, our transit system is working every

day to keep our riders and employees safe. But we can't do it without you, our riders. For every action we take, we ask riders to share the responsibility.

- We're following official public health guidelines; we ask riders to follow them, too.
- We're protecting each other by cleaning and disinfecting vehicles and facilities; we ask riders to clean their hands and wear face coverings.
- We're giving riders the information they need about crowded vehicles and routes; we ask riders to respect other passengers' space and, if possible, use transit at less busy times.
- We require our employees to stay home if they're sick or have been exposed to COVID-19; we ask riders to do the same.

Just as our riders rely on us, we rely on our riders to protect themselves and one another by following these commitments.

### **3. Public transit is essential to helping our community recover from this pandemic. We're helping our riders feel confident by taking steps to keep them safe.**

The pandemic has shown how essential public transportation is to keep our communities functioning. Transit has been a lifeline for:

- healthcare professionals, first responders, grocery and pharmacy employees, and other essential workers
- seniors and people with disabilities who require meals, medicine, necessities, and life-sustaining services

Getting people to jobs, school, health care, entertainment, sports and the arts, and life's opportunities is integral to the recovery and well-being of every community.

Public transportation will be there. As people reconnect to what they need, love, and aspire to achieve, transit will continue to adapt to riders' preferences, travel patterns, and post-pandemic needs.