

COVID-19 FAQ

December 29, 2020

Public Transportation

For Passengers

Can I still use public transit?

Yes. Public transportation is a vital service, and sometimes the only way for Oregonians to access employment, healthcare, and other important services including access to groceries and medication.

The state and the federal government intend to continue transit connections while keeping services as safe as possible during this pandemic. Concern regarding public transportation is understandable during this time.

Transit providers are taking actions to continue to provide services, including:

- Increasing sanitation and disinfection of vehicle interiors.
- Posting health directives from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Implementing passenger spacing protocols.
- Requiring riders to wear face coverings. (Refer to your local transit provider for policy details.)
- Providing hand sanitizer for employees and passengers.

What should I consider when deciding to take a bus or train?

If you must travel outside your home, use the same precautions you would for any travel.

Please refer to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidance for the general public at this link:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/1e2342D.pdf>

Can we expect public transit service to stay the same during the pandemic?

Transit operators are at the front line during this pandemic. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and local public transit providers are taking local conditions into account as they plan their service. Some providers have reduced services as ridership has declined or staff has not been available. Please call your local transit provider to find out if there are any changes to their schedule.

Amtrak

Status as of December 22, 2020

The Amtrak Cascades service offers one daily roundtrip between Seattle and Eugene, seven days a week. This consists of early morning Eugene to Seattle route - Train 500 (5:30 a.m. departure), and a midafternoon Seattle to Eugene route - Train 505 (2:20 p.m. departure). There is no train service north of Seattle. Schedule changes on the Cascades train route are available by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL or at this link:

<https://www.amtrak.com/cascades>.

Full Amtrak train schedules, along with booking and general information, are located at this link: [Amtrak.com](https://www.amtrak.com)

Further information about Amtrak's safety standards is located at this link:

<https://www.amtrak.com/planning-booking/policies/coronavirus.html>

Other

Are Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) meetings cancelled?

Public Transportation Advisory Committee meetings are being held as on-line open houses. For more information, contact Jaimie Baldwin at Jaimie.Baldwin@odot.state.or.us or 503-383-6733.

This decision was made to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of Oregonians. We look forward to working with our communities to hold these events live when the crisis is over.