

# COVID-19 PREVENTION FOR TRANSIT



With Washington residents increasingly getting vaccinated against COVID-19, many statewide health restrictions were lifted on June 30, 2021. Mobility is increasing and public and University transit offers a safe, efficient, affordable, and environmentally friendly means for staff and students to commute to and between UW locations. As the UW community prepares for more people returning to classrooms and workplaces, this document highlights COVID-19 prevention measures and additional recommendations to help ensure the health and safety of yourself and others while riding on public transportation, UW shuttles, and subsidized vanpools and carpools.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION FOR TRANSIT RIDERS

### BEFORE RIDING ON TRANSIT

- 1) **Get vaccinated.**
- 2) **Stay home if you have [COVID-19 symptoms](#)** or if you have been instructed to isolate or quarantine by a public health professional.
- 3) Consider **traveling at off-peak times**, if possible.
- 4) **Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer** before riding on transit.
- 5) Inform yourself on the safety measures in place for your transit route and consider downloading applications with **real-time transit tracking and service alerts** to support an efficient commute.
- 6) Avoid sharing a vehicle with improperly masked passengers or operators and report a concern to the transit authority, if needed.

### DURING TRANSIT

- 1) **Wear a face covering** that fits snugly over your nose and mouth; a face covering is **required** inside any public transportation hub, and while inside and boarding/disembarking from public shared conveyances (e.g., trains, road vehicles, airplanes, ferries).
- 2) **Don't eat or drink** while on public transit.
- 3) **Maintain distance** from other passengers when possible.

- 4) Consider using **contactless payment options** and **limit touching of high touch surfaces** in stations and vehicles, where possible.
- 5) **Follow posted signs** to avoid crowding at entry/exit points.

### AFTER RIDING ON TRANSIT

- 6) **Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer** when you arrive at your destination and before removing your mask or touching your face.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION FOR TRANSIT OPERATORS

[UW Transportation Services](#) takes the following safety measures on all UW shuttles. These measures are also utilized on public transportation systems (e.g., Metro, Sound Transit).

- **Face coverings are required** for all transit operators and passengers inside transportation hubs and while boarding/disembarking or inside shuttles.
- Post signage to encourage **self-screening of passengers** for COVID-19.
- **Employee education and training** to understand how to prevent COVID-19 transmission and UW COVID-19 prevention policies.
- **Daily COVID-19 symptom screening of employees** before entering the workplace. Employees are required to stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been instructed to quarantine or isolate.

- Open shuttle windows where possible to **increase fresh-air flow** through interiors.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE)** for transit operators as appropriate.
- **Hand sanitizing supplies** provided for passengers and operators.
- Full [daily cleaning, and cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces](#) before and after each shift.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION FOR CARPOOLS AND VANPOOLS

Carpool and vanpool riders should follow **COVID-19 Prevention for Transit Riders** (listed above), including the [face covering requirement](#) in shared transportation. The following actions are also recommended for carpool and vanpool riders:

- Stagger seating within the vehicle to allow for distancing between riders and drivers, where possible.
- Ventilate the vehicle. Keep windows open when possible. Opening all windows provides greater air circulation than turning on the car's ventilation system.
- If using heat or air conditioning, pull the air from outside the vehicle as opposed to recirculating the air internally.
- Travel with people who you know are also following preventive measures to limit COVID-19 transmission, including self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Take steps to clean and disinfect high-touch areas on a daily basis.

## RESOURCES

### UW TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:

- [Transit information](#): Popular routes to campus and U-PASS information.
- [Health science shuttles](#): Free shared shuttle services to/from the Seattle campus and Fred Hutch/South Lake Union, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA), Harborview Medical Center and UW Medical Center-Montlake.
- [Dial a Ride](#): Free shared ride services at Seattle campus for individuals with mobility limitations.
- [Vanpool and Vanshare](#): subsidized services for employees travelling to UW locations. Vanpools are managed and operated by regional transit agencies.
- [Carpools](#): discounted parking for employees travelling to UW locations.
- [Rideshare Safe Practices](#) poster

### STATE AND FEDERAL COVID-19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT:

- The WA Department of Health [Face Coverings Order](#) requirement in public settings.
- WA Labor & Industries [Requirements and Guidance for Preventing COVID-19](#).
- [Proclamation 20-25.14](#) "Washington Ready"
- The CDC [Order](#) requiring face masks on public conveyances and in transportation hubs.

If your commute includes riding on [King County Metro](#), [Kitsap Transit](#), [Community Transit](#), [Island Transit](#), [Intercity Transit](#), [Pierce Transit](#), and/or [Sound Transit](#), check their website(s) for more details about their COVID-19 prevention measures.

Contact for UW Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) at [ehsdept@uw.edu](mailto:ehsdept@uw.edu) for more information.

