



Winston-Salem Transit Authority Media Release

For Immediate Use

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WSTA announces face mask/covering requirement for its passengers

In an ongoing effort to continue to slow the spread of Covid-19, the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) will require passengers to wear face coverings/masks on all WSTA vehicles and on WSTA property when it is physically impossible to social distance. Persons who are medically unable to comply and children under two years of age, are excluded from the requirement. This requirement goes into effect on Friday, July 10, 2020 at 5pm.

WSTA General Manager Donna Woodson says, “Wearing a mask or face covering will help our passengers reduce their risk of being infected with Covid-19. The safety of our passengers and our employees is a top priority for the City of Winston-Salem and WSTA. We strongly urge all our riders to follow Governor Cooper’s executive order regarding the use of face coverings/masks indoors and outdoors. It’s the best way to protect themselves while commuting on public transit.”

On June 24, 2020, North Carolina’s Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order NO. 141, which was amended to add Section 3.5 **Face Coverings**.

Section B6: In Transportation. All workers and riders on public or private transportation regulated by the State of North Carolina, as well as, all people in North Carolina airports, bus and train stations or stops, must wear Face Coverings when they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person. This provision does not apply to people traveling alone with household members or friends in their personal vehicles, but does apply to ride-shares, cabs, vans, and shuttles, even if the vehicles are privately owned.

Just a couple of days later, June 26, the NC Department of Health and Human Services issued requirements on Face Coverings and Masks for the State of North Carolina.

WSTA has been consistent in its messaging on fighting the spread of Covid-19, by encouraging public transit passengers to use face masks/coverings while riding at all times. After Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 141, WSTA strengthened its policy.

Everyone must wear face coverings on WSTA vehicles and on WSTA property when they are not able to socially distance themselves from others. The requirement will remain in effect until it is modified or rescinded by the governor. WSTA will provide masks if needed.