

## Public Transportation Providers

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### Physical Distancing Questions & Answers

Q: Why the 50% capacity limit? Is this a total vehicle capacity limit?

- A: The 50% capacity limit has been a compromise reached between the CDPHE and CDOT to ensure that agencies are able to balance transporting the greatest number of passengers possible with the safety that agencies need to adhere to in these times of pandemic. The goal is to maintain 6-feet of physical distancing between all non-household groups.
- If every person on the bus was a stranger / non-household member, buses would be limited to 25% capacity (0.25 x length of the bus = maximum number of passengers, or 10 passengers on a standard 40-foot bus).
  - Accounting for household groups, persons with a disability needing an accommodation, transit vehicles being used in an emergency situation, or to prevent a risk to life or safety (e.g. leaving passengers in extreme heat/cold), up to 50% capacity (0.50 x length of the bus = maximum number of passengers or 20 passengers on a standard 40-foot bus) is allowed.
  - These standards intentionally do not use crush load / standee capacity as the standard. The physical distancing is measured between the faces of passengers, which does not change regardless of how many seats, or how much standing capacity a bus might have.

Q: My city / county / jurisdiction has different guidelines. Can I follow those instead?

- A: To ensure compliance on a state and local level, agencies should be following either their local or these state guidelines, *whichever are more restrictive*, in the interest of public health and safety.

### Ventilation Questions & Answers

Q: My agency installed advanced filtration systems, and they won't work if the windows are open.

- A: Per the CDPHE guidelines, if your vehicles come with an advanced filtration system (like a C band UV sanitizer, MERV 13 / Puraward antiviral and antibacterial filtration systems, etc.), this is an appropriate alternative to keeping windows open to increase ventilation.

### Sick or Exposed Employees & Drivers Questions & Answers

Q: How are agencies supposed to know if an employee is sick?

- A: Employers should consider screening employees when they return to work. This process includes asking employees if they have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms, if they have been in close contact with anyone experiencing these symptoms, and taking the employee's temperature with a touchless thermometer.

Q: What if an employee is sick?

- A: Employees who are sick or symptomatic may, depending on the situation for each individual, return to work when ALL of the following criteria are met.
- Employee has been fever free, without the use of fever reducing medication, for 24 hours.
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - COVID-19 symptoms have improved.

## Passenger Questions & Answers

Q: Aren't masks enough to keep COVID-19 at bay?

A: Masks, in addition to social distancing, stringent vehicle cleaning and disinfecting, and reducing non-essential trips to the highest extent possible, all play an important part in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission to the public as well as to our transit operators.

Q: I have received a copy of the guidance and the phone-based Exposure Notification link is not shown. What is it?

A: <https://www.addyourphone.com/>

Q: Where do I look for more information on COVID-19?

A: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/about-covid-19>

## Cleaning and disinfection

Q: Isn't cleaning the vehicles enough to keep COVID-19 at bay?

A: No, not entirely, given that COVID-19 is also spread by airborne (breathing, coughing, sneezing) means. However, to best protect employees and the riding public, vehicles should be cleaned and then disinfected. This is the best way to reduce the risk of spreading infection via contact with surfaces, by the greatest amount. Vehicles should be cleaned at the end of each day and at the end of each operational shift.

## Compliance Concerns

Q: How is the State of Colorado (CDOT & CDPHE) going to be sure each agency follows these guidelines?

A: All State & Local Health Departments are working together to ensure the health of residents of and visitors to Colorado. Colorado law requires compliance with executive and public health orders; therefore, not following these orders is breaking the law. We all must do our part to ensure success, and call upon all people in Colorado to voluntarily comply. Local law enforcement agencies can enforce public health orders. State law enforcement will assist and support in any way requested, but voluntary compliance is critical. Law enforcement involvement is reserved for the most aggravated circumstances. See this link for more: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/enforcement-public-health-orders>

Gov. Polis has created an advisory board to support coordination across multiple jurisdictions on compliance and enforcement for Safer-at-Home with the goal of maximizing Social Distancing compliance. It will be specifically focused on how local governments and local public health can coordinate with the state on educating the public about these regulations, and maximizing compliance and enforcement efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

Q: Is this mandatory or just guidance?

A: It's mandatory. In all cases for the Transit Guidance, the mandatory elements (e.g. physical distancing, ventilation, cleaning & disinfecting, etc) the mandatory requirement is listed, followed by a variety of steps that may be taken to meet that requirement.