



## **Manchester Transit Authority**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MTA Phase 1 Reopening**

*First fixed routes to resume June 1, 2020*

To assist passengers who need to access employment and other services as New Hampshire begins to reopen, the Manchester Transit Authority (MTA) is implementing the following initial steps to reopen our fixed route bus service as of today:

- Demand response eligibility will be expanded to include access to all employment in Manchester as capacity allows. Priority will remain with passengers traveling for food shopping, pharmacy, and medical trips.
- MTA will continue temporary suspension of fare collection for the immediate future.
- All drivers will be required to wear facial coverings and all passengers are **STRONGLY** encouraged to do so as well. While voluntary for riders, MTA will not resume fixed route service until we believe we can do so safely. To do that, MTA asks for the help of our passengers, specifically, to wear facial coverings to protect themselves, drivers, and other passengers.
- Vehicles will continue to be cleaned repeatedly throughout the day.
- Vehicle capacity will be capped at 50 percent of normal to ensure adequate space for passengers to socially distance.
- Riders are prohibited from using MTA service if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or have recently been in contact with someone who was diagnosed.

Provided that metrics in New Hampshire continue to improve and that no prohibitive actions have been taken by the Governor (for example, reversal of reopening measures) and that MTA is able to partner with our riders on voluntary compliance with our request for them to wear facial coverings while on board, we intend to launch Phase 1 of fixed route return to service on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Phase 1 will include full service for the following routes:

- Route #2 East Industrial Park via Hanover Street

- Route #3 Airport via Brown Ave
- Route #6 Mast Road via Bremer Street
- Route #8 Mall of NH via S. Willow Street
- Route #10 Mall of NH via Valley Street

These five routes will operate normal service on both weekdays and Saturdays. MTA does not run bus service on Sundays.

The remaining six local routes as well as the Green DASH and MTA's Zip Line Express service to Nashua and Concord will come in later phases. As fixed route service resumes, passengers using Demand Response will be shifted back to fixed route for trips that can be accommodated, allowing us to extend Demand Response capacity to more individuals. Just as is the case with current Demand Response, fixed route buses will be cleaned periodically throughout the day and will be limited to 50 percent capacity to accommodate social distancing. Passengers will continue to be strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings.

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