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NEBRASKA PUBLIC TRANSIT

MOBILITY MATTERS

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QUARTER ONE

Transit and COVID-19 Requirements in 2021

On January 29, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a federal mask requirement for transit systems. The federal requirement is mandated by a Transportation Security Administration security directive, written to implement the CDC's requirement. The security directive includes public transportation and intercity bus transportation.



The focus of the security directive is that all persons on public transportation or in public transportation hubs must wear a mask, defined as a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer but not a face shield. Operators are responsible for making the

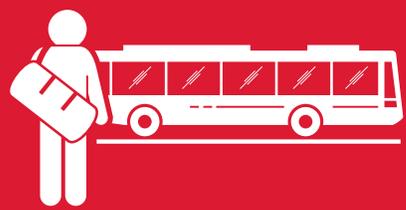
public aware of this mandate, when purchasing tickets or booking transportation as well as when the vehicle departs its location after boarding passengers. This can include notifying the public that federal law requires wearing a mask while on the vehicle and failure to comply may result in denial to board or removal from the vehicle.

There are exceptions to the federal mandate. Masks may be removed to verify identity, while taking oral medication, or when communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and seeing the mouth is essential for communication. No child under the age of two is required to wear a mask. Individuals with

REQUIREMENTS continued on page 2



Mask: Masks are material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields.



Transportation Hub: Any location where people gather to await, board, or disembark public transportation. Any facility directly involved in the provision of transit service, such as ticket sales offices, vehicle maintenance facilities, vehicle cleaning facilities, operations control centers, operator break areas, and fueling facilities.

REQUIREMENTS *continued from page 1*

disabilities who cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act are not required to wear masks. The exemption is not meant to cover people with disabilities for whom wearing a mask might only be difficult or whose disability does not prevent them from safely wearing a mask. For specific exemption subsets, please review the Disability Exemptions of the Order on the CDC’s website.

CDC guidance on masks:

- A properly worn mask completely covers the nose and mouth.
- Mask should be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they should have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers.
- Mask should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Mask should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures.
- Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel may be used to facilitate communication with people who need to see a speaker’s mouth to understand speech.

CDC says the following do not fulfill requirements:

- Masks worn in a way that does not cover both the mouth and nose
- Face shields or goggles (face shields or goggles may be worn to supplement a mask that meets above required attributes)
- Scarves, ski masks, balaclavas, or bandannas
- Shirt or sweater collars (e.g., turtleneck collars) pulled up over the mouth and nose.
- Masks containing slits, exhalation valves, or punctures
- Masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight)

The COVID-19 Vaccine and Transit

COVID-19 vaccines became available in late 2020, and throughout the winter and early spring to transit agencies across Nebraska. Getting vaccinated has been deemed a key priority to return to pre-pandemic routines. As frontline workers, transit employees were included in Priority Tier III of Nebraska DHHS’s Phase 1B Vaccination Plan.

Health care providers administered 828,764 vaccinations in Nebraska as of March 29, 2021. Transit employees in Nebraska should contact their local public health official for more information about vaccination locations or visit the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services’ website.

Vaccination Timeline (tentative)

Phase	Population Group	January	February	March	April	May	June - Dec	
1A	Healthcare and long term care facility residents	[Vaccination period]						
1B	Persons aged 65 and older		[Vaccination period]					
1B	First responders, utilities, homeless shelter staff, corrections staff, educators		[Vaccination period]					
1B	Funeral homes, grocery, food processing		[Vaccination period]					
1B	Transportation, US postal service, public transit		[Vaccination period]					
1C	Congregate living (residential treatments, corrections, homeless shelters)		[Vaccination period]					
2A	Persons aged 50-64			[Vaccination period]				
2B	Persons aged 16-49					[Vaccination period]		



DHHS-O7H-16 Rev. 2/2021

Visit the DHHS website <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx> to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine in Nebraska.

Celebrating Public Transit in 2021

Nebraska Public Transit Week 2021 is only a week away. To incorporate public safety, the statewide celebration has been altered from prior years, but the planning committee is confident the passion and fun will reach new heights in 2021.

Organizers hosted monthly planning and sharing sessions with transit agencies since December. Each month managers met online to listen to updates, discuss their plans, and provide feedback on the Planning Committee's ideas.

One major new event for Nebraska Public Transit Week 2021 is the Trivia contest. The Trivia game will be open April 12 at 9 A.M. CST through April 16 at 3 P.M. CST. Two links will be provided via the listserv, on the Nebraska Transit website, and on the Facebook event. One link will be to enter the game and the other will be to view the Leaderboard. Once you click the game link, participants will start by entering in their name and information to join the game. Once you click play you will be asked 50 questions worth 10 points each. Each question will be timed at 20 seconds, so answer quickly!

There will be no formal teams, but feel free to complete the questions as a group. If you choose to go this route, sign up as your team's name in the First and Last name fields. Examples: First Name: Fillmore, Last Name: County Transit; or First Name: Go, Last Name: Huskers! Otherwise, if you



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choose to compete individually, just sign up with your own name and information.

This Trivia event is open to the public and transit employees, so make sure you spread the news. Share the information with your employees, friends, and family, too. We hope that this will be an exciting, friendly completion and a fun new way to celebrate Nebraska Public Transit Week virtually.

Another newcomer to this year's celebration is the pledge to ride public transit. Individuals can take the pledge, supporting their local public transit agency, by visiting nebraskatransit.com and clicking on the Pledge to Ride Transit link. Participants enter their name, postal code, and transit agency they ride with. Managers,

drivers, and staff can pass out cards to riders with the website information and their agency name to help encourage individuals to take the pledge.

To get everyone ready, the Nebraska Public Transit Facebook page started Trivia Tuesdays. Posts highlight a different transit concept weekly and incorporate a Nebraska transit agency related to the term. Transit agencies are encouraged to share the posts with their audiences, and users to reply with their guesses on the post. The Planning Committee is also looking forward to posting Answer the Call submissions on Facebook highlighting why employees work in public transit and is still working on even more ideas to engage through social media.

Nebraska Public Transit Week 2021 is going to be different than any prior to it, but it also stands to be the best celebration of public transit in Nebraska yet. Alongside the Nebraska Department of Transportation, the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers, and dozens of agencies, Nebraska Public Transit is excited to share the love.



Calendar of Events

APRIL

7 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Kearney
Bootcamp Day 1 – PASS

8 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Kearney
Bootcamp Day 2 – Defensive Driving

9 – 8-10 a.m. – North Platte
Refresher Defensive Driving

9 – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – North Platte
Refresher PASS

9 – 1-3 p.m. – North Platte
Advanced Wheelchair Securement

11-17 – Nebraska Public Transit Week

28 – 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – NATP Webinar

**Check nebraskatransit.com
for the most up-to-date
schedule of courses.**

MAY

6 – 8-10 a.m. – Seward
Refresher Defensive Driving

6 – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Seward
Refresher PASS

6 – 1-3 p.m. – Seward
Dealing with Difficult Passengers

11 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Scottbluff
PASS

12 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Scottbluff
Defensive Driving

13 – 8-10 a.m. – Scottbluff
Refresher Defensive Driving

13 – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Scottbluff
Refresher PASS

13 – 1-3 p.m. – Scottbluff
Advanced Wheelchair Securement

14 – 8-10 a.m. – Kimball
Refresher Defensive Driving

14 – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Kimball
Refresher PASS

14 – 1-3 p.m. – Kimball
Advanced Wheelchair Securement

19 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Kearney
Bootcamp Day 1 – PASS

20 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Kearney
Bootcamp Day 2 – Defensive Driving

JUNE

9 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Lincoln
PASS

10 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m. – Lincoln
Defensive Driving

22 – 8-10 a.m. – Distance Learning
Refresher PASS

22 – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Distance Learning
Refresher Defensive Driving

MOBILITY MATTERS

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