

**Ministry of
Transportation**

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MEMORANDUM TO: Provincial and municipal transit agencies, Ontario Public Transit Association

FROM: Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation

DATE: June 11, 2020

SUBJECT: **Guidance for Public Transit Employers & Passengers in Response to COVID-19**

As we move further along with the reopening of our province, the safety of public transit employees and passengers continues to be top of mind.

Recently, Shelley Tapp, Deputy Minister of Transportation shared evidence-based guidance from Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, on COVID-19 precautions on public transportation.

To build from Dr. Yaffe's guidance and in response to stakeholder requests, we are releasing more comprehensive guidance for public transit employers and passengers in response to COVID-19.

This guidance was developed by the Ministry of Transportation, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Furthermore, the guidance has been directly informed by our key transit partners – we are grateful for the insights provided.

While the intention is to provide clear and consistent guidance for provincial and municipal transit agencies, we recognize that the implementation of best practices may be gradual as ridership increases.

Also, while examples are provided, we recognize that responses to COVID-19 will not be a one size fits all model – each transit agency will need to take different considerations into account.

As the environment in which we are living and working continues to evolve, we continue to seek advice from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on best practices related to the safety for operators and passengers.

Ontario's public transit systems are vital as the province begins its framework to reopen. We are committed to supporting our transit partners and ensuring that the people of Ontario can continue to ride transit safely.

Thank you for all your hard work as we continue to respond to this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Mulroney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation