



First Transit

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YCBus.org

Main

503-474-4900

Newberg

503-538-7433

Translation/Accessible

Alternate Formats

503-474-4900

Central Translation

1-800-CALL-CLI

Text-to-Voice

(TTY) Relay

711

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For Immediate Release

May 15, 2020

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Yamhill County Transit Service COVID-19 Service Update Effective May 15, 2020.

Yamhill County Oregon- Yamhill County Transit (YCT) operates transit service in Yamhill County with connections to Tri-Met, Cherriots and Tillamook County Transit District.

Yamhill County Transit wants to thank all essential workers and those working on the front lines. We are so appreciative of the amazing First Transit managers, drivers, dispatchers, field supervisors and maintenance staff who are keeping the buses on the road every day.

31 Counties were approved to begin reopening on May 15, 2020. Yamhill County was approved by the Governor's office to enter Phase I for a minimum of 21 days prior to making a request to move to Phase II. For additional information about County operations or facilities please visit the County website at <https://www.co.yamhill.or.us/>

Today, the Governor's office provided specific guidance for Transit agencies. Yamhill County Transit implemented the proposed guidance prior to the Governor's recommendations, apart from **posting** a notice for the maximum occupancy for each bus. The guidelines are available online at the Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 page in the [Transit Agency Guidance document](#)

YCT staff continues to monitor ridership and staffing levels and will adjust services as needed. Ridership has increased slightly and is currently at approximately 30% of normal.

Service Changes:

YCT continues to **require** all riders to wear a face covering, such as a mask or bandana. Below are some key requirements included in the Governor's new guidance.

- When riding public transit, an individual must wear a face covering unless the individual:
 - Is under two years of age.
 - Has a medical condition that makes it hard to breathe when wearing a face covering.
 - Has a disability that prevents the individual from wearing a face covering.

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YCT asks the public to review the guidance provided in the link below and follow all the recommendations provided by the Oregon Health Authority regarding [Mask and Face Covering Guidance for Business, Transit and Public](#)

The City of Newberg routes 5 and 7 are still **temporarily discontinued** until further notice. Yamhill County Transit **continues the fare free policy** until further notice.

What is Yamhill County Transit doing to keep you safe?

Face Masks: Transit Drivers are wearing face masks and to limit exposure most buses are equipped with a protective barrier between the driver and the passenger. Masks are available to riders that do not have access to face coverings.

Hand Sanitizer: Has been made available on the buses for rider use.

Cleaning: YCT is meeting the Governor's guidance to clean every four hours and wipe all frequently touched surfaces on the buses and disinfectant the buses each night.

Social Distancing: To help with social distancing on the bus, the updated transit guidance requires six (6) feet of physical distance between the driver and passengers (except during boarding and when assisting with mobility devices). The new guidance requires at least 3 feet of physical distance between passengers. YCT installed signs and other markings and visual clues to encourage social distancing. When possible, riders may board through the back doors. This is to provide drivers more space so they can stay healthy.

What can you do?

We urge riders to follow the Oregon Health Authority and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations:

Social distancing: Practice "social distancing" keeping at least three feet and ideally six feet between you and other people, including our operators and employees. Avoid large gatherings and social events.

Wash your hands: Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Do not touch your face: Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Cover your cough or sneeze: Cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw that tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow (and not your hands).

Stay home if you are not feeling well:

Wear a face covering: Wear a face covering when out in public, and face coverings are required when riding public transit.

The Oregon Department of Transportation Rail and Public Transit Division has an informative Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) website that provides valuable information for transit riders and stakeholders regarding COVID-19 as it relates to public transportation in Oregon.

[ODOT-COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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Please visit the [YCBus.org](https://www.ycbus.org) website for the most current updates and visit the Rider Facebook page at [YCBus Info](#) for real time updates.

Where to get info about COVID-19

Web

- [Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [Yamhill County Public Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Facebook

- [Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)