



POLICY ON FACE COVERING IN PUBLIC PLACES (Updated 02.08.2021)

Effective February 1, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control will enforce guidance requiring that all "persons" riding on or operating public transit and at transit Stations must wear a mask.

To effectively comply with this Order, MVRTA will implement the following policy system-wide effective February 11, 2021.

1. All "persons"¹ (including MVRTA employees) who are onboard a vehicle or at a transportation Station are required to wear a mask
2. MVRTA will continue to enforce the requirement to wear masks while waiting at bus stops, shelters, or in public areas in any MVRTA facility.

As defined in the Order, a mask must;

- **Completely cover the nose and mouth**
- **Fit snugly**
- **Be secured to the head either with ties or ear loops**
- **Should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures**

The following are not acceptable under CDC guidelines, and riders and others may not be allowed on vehicles or in facilities if they are using a mask composed of the following: Scarves, ski masks, balaclavas, neck gaiters, or bandannas; Shirt or sweater collars pulled up over the mouth and nose. Masks made from loosely woven fabric or that are knitted, i.e., fabrics that let light pass through, Masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through (such as vinyl, plastic, or leather), masks containing slits, exhalation valves, or punctures or masks that do not fit properly.

The Order also **requires** operators to "use best efforts" to ensure compliance at all times, including boarding, disembarking, and at all times onboard the vehicle or in transit Stations. To ensure compliance, operators and employees must;

- Refuse to board passengers who are not wearing a mask.
 - If the unmasked person is waiting for a bus, the operator should stop and inform the passenger that a mask must be worn before boarding.
 - If the passenger refuses to comply, the trip may be denied.
 - A passenger with a known history of non-compliance who is not wearing a mask may be bypassed.

¹ The order defines "persons" to include travelers (including passengers and crew), "conveyance operators and any workers of service providers"

- Ensure compliance when onboard
 - Passengers who remove their masks once onboard must be reminded to wear the mask properly. If they refuse, the operator must require them to disembark as soon as it is practical to do so. If the passenger refuses, a supervisor must be consulted for guidance. The Supervisor will decide if law enforcement assistance is needed.
 - Service should not be delayed due to concerns regarding a passenger without a mask. However, if non-compliance with the mask policy creates an unsafe situation, service may be delayed, and a supervisor must be notified immediately.
 - While the operator is ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance on board, it is equally important to ensure safe vehicle operation; the operator is not expected to monitor compliance at the expense of safely operating the vehicle.
 - Repeated incidents of non-compliance may result in the person's suspension of riding privileges.

Facility specific:

- No person may be allowed entry to any MVRTA facility without wearing an appropriate mask as outlined above.
- Persons who remove a mask or cease to wear it appropriately once in a MVRTA facility must be asked to wear the mask properly or leave

Masks may be removed in the following situations

- While taking medication
- While communicating with a person who is hearing impaired when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication
- In a medical emergency
- To verify one's identity

Exemptions:

This Order provides limited exemptions;

- a. The Order exempts children 2 and under from the requirement
- b. A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask "because of the disability.
 - Supervisors may impose requirements, or conditions for carriage, on persons requesting an exemption from the requirement to wear a mask, including medical consultation by third party, medical documentation by licensed medical provider.