

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# Transit acts to limit spread of novel coronavirus

### March 5, 2020

Media Contact: Sanjay Bhatt, 360-824-4926, sanjayb@kitsaptransit.com

BREMERTON, Wash. – As new cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) are detected in the Greater Seattle area, Kitsap Transit is taking steps to limit the spread of coronavirus through its operations.

Buses are wiped down daily with an antiviral solution that kills coronavirus and deep cleaned at least

twice a week. Ferries are wiped down daily at the end of each shift. And starting this afternoon, reusable plastic fastferry boarding passes will be replaced with single-use paper boarding passes.

The majority of Kitsap Transit's staff, including bus operators, ferry deckhands and customerservice representatives, interacts daily with the public. Kitsap Transit provides its frontline staff with gloves, sanitizer wipes and other supplies to reduce their risk of infection from germs and has



Kitsap Transit sprays buses daily with an antiviral solution that kills coronaviruses.

encouraged all employees to stay at home if they or a family member is experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Kitsap Transit is communicating several times a week with other transit agencies in the Puget Sound region to ensure its cleaning practices are consistent and stay abreast of potential service disruptions resulting from operator absences.

Everyone can help limit the spread of viral respiratory infection by following this guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- If you feel sick or are experiencing cold and flu symptoms, stay home and avoid public places. If you are on a bus or another public place, cover your sneezes and coughs.
- Wash hands with soap 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 is not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

The CDC does **not** recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of disease to others.

Passengers who want to report concerns regarding Kitsap Transit service can call customer service at 1.800.501.RIDE.

For updates and resources on COVID-19, visit Kitsap Public Health District's website at <u>https://kitsappublichealth.org/</u>.

#### About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

#### Hablar español?

Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

#### Nagsasalita ka ba ng Tagalog?

Paki-tawagan ang numero 1-800-501-7433 normal na oras ng trabaho. Customer Service kawani ay kumonekta sa isang taga interpretor upang tulungan sagutin ang iyong katanungan.

###