



SAFETY BULLETIN #2

August 6, 2020

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Legends of the Fall

Fall is approaching fast. And one thing is certain. It will be a fall unlike any other in BT's 37-year history. BT has worked closely with the Health Department to plan for it. Even the best laid plans have to be adapted. For now, here are some QA's that will give you an idea of what to expect:

Will operators be required to wear a face covering?

Yes. Operators are required to wear a face covering while operating a vehicle in revenue service when passengers are on board. Employees in the shift change van are required to wear a face covering at all times. Employees are required to wear a face covering while in common areas in the building. Common areas include hallways, restrooms, and break areas (including the Operator Lounge). The only exception to wearing a face covering in common areas is when an employee is eating or drinking.

Will I be exempt from wearing a face covering if I have a medical issue?

No. If you have a medical issue that makes wearing a mask impossible, a face shield will be provided.

Will passengers be required to wear a face covering?

Yes. All passengers on BT vehicles will be required to wear a face covering. If they refuse, the situation should be treated as a fare dispute and you should feel free to request further assistance from dispatch if required.

Will service remain fare free?

Yes. No need to check Hokie ID's.

What about passenger counts?

Passenger counts are still important as we will have a reduced capacity limit this year. It is subject to change, but at this stage the limits will be:



= 75



= 55



= 45

Will front door boarding resume?

Yes, when full service resumes. Barriers are being installed on the buses and should be complete by full service.

What's up with the barriers?

Driver's barriers are becoming the norm throughout the industry. Ours are smaller and less intrusive than most. They are meant to protect a driver against direct exposure either by person to person contact or accelerated droplets due to sneezes and coughs.

How do I use the barrier?

The barrier should be released and swung open to access the driver's seat. Once in the seat, close the barrier and use the yellow lock at top to secure the barrier in place. While boarding passengers the barrier should be extended towards the fare box for additional protection. While driving, the extension should be stowed. Please let us know about any issues so we can address them in a timely manner.

NOTE: The barrier should be in use whenever you are in the driver's seat.

Are we going to operate on our normal full service schedule?

Yes. We will start the semester with all routes running plus the addition of the new Main Street- Airport Route. As the semester progresses and we get a better idea of passenger load numbers, we may adapt the schedule.

Additional Questions:

I am sure you all have more questions. And we want to do our best to try and answer them. We will have a socially distanced, in-person safety meeting on August 27th where we will be joined by health department officials to help answer your questions. In the meantime, feel free to send me your questions via W2W (Johan Guyt).

End of Safety Bulletin #2.

Please send any suggestions or questions to a member of the training staff via W2W or to BTsafetyandTraining@blacksburg.gov