



# COVID-19 UPDATES

## Paul Jablonski

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Metropolitan Transit System

MTS is taking very seriously its responsibility to help safeguard employees and riders against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. My goal is to keep everyone informed and healthy. To that end, I will be updating you frequently.

But everyone has a role in this effort. The best way we can all help is to **stay home if we feel ill**. The symptoms of COVID-19 (and the flu) are weakness, shortness of breath, chills and fever. If you have these symptoms, please stay at home and contact your doctor. At this time, your time away from work will be deducted from your accrued sick leave. State and Federal governments, however, are considering additional paid sick leave options related to COVID-19.

We are also developing strategies for many possible contingencies. We will communicate those immediately as the situation warrants.

At this time, the Center for Disease Control still says “For the majority of people, the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. There is not widespread circulation in most communities in the United States.”

It is imperative that we all practice proper personal hygiene: Wash our hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds frequently throughout the day. Sneeze or cough into a tissue and throw it away (or into your arm). Limit hand contact with your face. Wipe down common areas with disinfectant wipes or spray. MTS will make sure all departments have disinfectant products.

Our employees who provide valuable service to our riders should take extra precautions. We have gloves, masks and hand sanitizer available for your use. Our administrative employees should consider using phone conferencing instead of meetings.

We have also taken considerable steps to protect our riders. Stronger solutions are used for cleaning. Facilities are cleaned with bleach-based solutions daily. We have instituted increased cleaning at our four major transit stations (12<sup>th</sup> & Imperial, San Ysidro, El Cajon and Old Town) to include the cleaning of ticket vending machines and all other hard surfaces. Trolley doors and buttons will also be wiped down throughout the day. On Friday, in cooperation with the County of San Diego, 56 handwashing stations will be placed at all Trolley stations and the UTC Transit Center.

We have also communicated with the media on our cleaning procedures and placed personal hygiene tips on all of our digital advertising monitors throughout the region.

Thank you again for all your hard work and loyalty to MTS and its riders. This is a difficult time for us all. As with all challenges, it requires us to stay informed and work together!

Here are some resources for you to stay up to date. If you have work-related questions, please email Jeff Stumbo, Chief Human Resources Officer at [jeff.stumbo@sdmts.com](mailto:jeff.stumbo@sdmts.com).

[Fact Sheets](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials.html) ([https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials.html))

[County Website](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV.html.html) ([https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV.html.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV.html.html))

[County Newsletter](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials.html) ([https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials.html))

