

**RULE REQUIRING THE USE OF MASKS ON WINNIPEG TRANSIT VEHICLES
AUGUST 28, 2020**

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the COVID-19 pandemic remains a public health risk in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 cases continue to rise globally, nationally and locally in Winnipeg, with Winnipeg seeing a continuous increase in case numbers throughout the months of July and August;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Public Health estimates that up to 20% of current cases are non-epidemiological linked, indicating community transmission is present in both Winnipeg and throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS there is growing evidence of the efficacy of face masks in reducing the spread of COVID-19. While not a replacement for social distancing or strong hand hygiene, the use of face masks has been encouraged by provincial, national, and global health organizations as one tool to assist in the fight against the spread of COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS the World Health Organization has stated that “If there is widespread community transmission, and especially in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, governments should encourage the general public to wear a fabric mask”;

AND WHEREAS section 17 of the Public Transit By-law No. 89/2014 provides that the Director of Winnipeg Transit “may take actions and implement measures that are not in conflict with this By-law and are consistent with its purpose in order to ... ensure or enhance the safety and enjoyment of users of the services provided by Winnipeg Transit”;

AND WHEREAS section 18 of the Public Transit By-law No. 89/2014 provides that the Director of Winnipeg Transit “may make rules that are not in conflict with this By-law and are consistent with its purpose, respecting ... the activity and behaviour of individuals within transit property...”;

NOW THEREFORE, as the Director of Winnipeg Transit, I hereby make the following Rule:

Definitions

1(1) In this Rule

“**City**” means The City of Winnipeg continued under section 8 of the Charter;

“**mask**” means a face covering that is capable of covering the mouth, nose, and chin without gapping to ensure a barrier that inhibits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets;

“**operator**” means an operator of a Winnipeg Transit vehicle, including the driver of a Transit Plus vehicle who is employed by a company under contract with the City;

“**passenger**” means an individual who is being transported on a Transit vehicle;

“**Transit vehicle**” means a vehicle operated by or on behalf of Winnipeg Transit to transport passengers and, for greater certainty, includes vehicles operated by or on behalf of Transit Plus;

“**Winnipeg Transit**” has the same meaning as in the Public Transit By-law No. 89/2014.

Use of masks required on Transit vehicles

2 Subject to the exceptions set out in section 3 of this Order, all operators and passengers must at all times while on a Transit vehicle wear a mask which covers the person’s mouth, nose, and chin without gapping to ensure a barrier that inhibits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets.

Exceptions to mandatory mask requirement

3 Section 2 does not apply to

- (a) Children under 5 years of age;
- (b) Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a mask safely without assistance;
- (c) Persons unable to wear a mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation or protected ground under *The Manitoba Human Rights Code*;
- (d) Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
- (e) Persons providing or receiving services that require the temporary removal of their mask.

Effective date

4 This Rule takes effect on August 29, 2020 and is effective until it is revoked.



Greg Ewankiw
Director, Winnipeg Transit

August 28, 2020
Date