



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

April 2, 2020

[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Secures and Distributes Additional 100,000 Masks Per Week to Heroic Front Line Workforce

Agency Has Already Issued 240,000 Masks, 3.2 Million Gloves Since March 1

MTA Encourages Healthcare Workers, First Responders and Other Essential Workers Using Public Transit to Wear Face Coverings to Help Stop the Spread

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced it has secured and is distributing an additional 100,000 masks to its workforce across New York City Transit, MTA Bus Company, Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North Railroad and MTA Bridges and Tunnels. The announcement follows the agency's successful efforts distributing 75,000 masks last week, with the supply expected to increase and continue regular replenishment. The agency has already distributed 240,000 masks since March 1. Gloves are also being distributed, with 3.2 million issued so far.

As previously announced, the MTA is no longer following the direction of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding masks, which states that masks are not recommended for healthy people as protection against COVID-19. The MTA has also observed health care workers, first responders and other essential personnel who have chosen to wear face coverings. We're fully supportive and encourage all essential workers who ride with us during this time to do so.

"The continued distribution of masks is great news for the men and women of the MTA, who are heroes for the work they are doing on the frontlines of this pandemic. It is our hope and our mission to continue to provide this critical protective equipment going forward," **said Patrick J. Foye, MTA Chairman and CEO.** "We have made the decision to disregard previous medical guidance on masks so that we can provide additional comfort and safety to our steadfast, dedicated workforce. We are also recommending that the essential workers who continue to ride with us during the pandemic wear face coverings – we all have a responsibility to do everything we can to stop the spread."