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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Ridership Increase as New York City Enters Phase 1 Reopening

Long Island Rail Road Sees 13% of Pre-Pandemic Ridership, Metro-North Railroad Returns to 10% of Normal Ridership

Officials from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced ridership on the Long Island Rail Road was 28,089 on Monday June 8, the first day of New York City's Phase 1 reopening, totaling 13% of the agency's pre-pandemic ridership figures, up from 3% mid-pandemic. On Metro-North Railroad, ridership increased to 20,140 riders on June 8, equaling 10% of Metro-North's pre-pandemic ridership, up from 4% mid-pandemic. Ridership continues to trend upward as the Hudson Valley region began Phase 2 on Tuesday, June 9 and Long Island's Phase 2 started today, Wednesday June 10.

The LIRR is introduced new timetables on June 8 that increase service to 90% of normal weekday service, with off-peak fares remaining in effect at all times. To accommodate an increase in riders as part of the Phase 1 reopening on Long Island, MTA Long Island Rail Road announced essential service plan enhancements on May 26. 105 cars were added, adding 15% capacity and lengthening trains, bringing the daily in-service car total to more than 800 cars.

Beginning June 15, Metro-North will return to approximately 61% of the normal weekday service with a new schedule supporting supplement peak inbound and reverse peak service, while still maintaining hourly service during off-peak hours. The schedule will bring Metro-North to 50 trains arriving at Grand Central Terminal during the AM peak and 68 trains departing during the PM peak. This marks a 115% capacity increase from the current schedule, which sees 24 trains in the morning peak and 24 in the evening peak. Off-peak fares will continue to apply at all times. Additional trains and crews will be available in all yard locations to add trains into service should the demand warrant.

"With Monday's milestone of the Phase 1 reopening of NYC and today's beginning of Phase 2 on Long Island, it is with great pride and admiration I have of our workforce," said **Long Island Rail Road President Phil Eng**. It is their heroic efforts that has allowed LIRR to move essential workers such as doctors, nurses, first responders, grocery store clerks and our own MTA workforce to bend the curve and save lives. Not only are we performing unprecedented levels of disinfecting throughout the system, but our ability to increase service and run the essential service plan at 90% of our full schedule allows all that need to use the LIRR an added level of comfort with additional capacity and options to safely travel. The light at the end of the tunnel is both brighter and closer as LIRR is here for you. They are truly heroes moving heroes."

"As the number of riders traveling from Metro-North's service region to New York City continues to grow, the safety of our customers and employees is our number one priority," said **Metro-North Railroad President Catherine Rinaldi**. "We continue our unprecedented, 24/7 cleaning regimen as well as providing masks and hand sanitizer in stations for our riders."

On the Long Island Rail Road, roughly 110 LIRR employees were deployed to 54 stations throughout the system, where 2,500 masks were distributed to riders. In the 5:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. time period on Monday, arrivals at Penn Station were counted at 34% of normal volumes, likely signaling the return of construction workers under the NYC Phase 1 worker plan. The LIRR continues to urge business leaders to consider staggering work hours to help with adequate distancing onboard trains.

Long Island Rail Road stations have been cleaned more than 10,000 times since May 1 and LIRR train cars have been cleaned more than 36,000 times during that time. Daily disinfecting and cleaning will continue with all LIRR train cars being sanitized at least once a day and stations at least twice daily.

Metro-North personnel distributed 250 masks and 200 hand sanitizer packets Monday, and touchless hand sanitizer dispensers are being installed at all Metro-North stations. Face covering signage has been posted at all stations to remind riders they need one to travel. Floor decals have been placed near ticket windows and information booths to encourage proper social distancing on lines. Similar decals can also be found on the platforms at the Fordham, Pelham, Scarsdale and Tarrytown stations so riders can properly social distance while waiting for their train.

Daily disinfecting and cleaning will continue with all Metro-North train cars being sanitized at least once a day and stations at least twice daily. To date, Metro-North stations have been cleaned more than 9,500 times, train cars have been cleaned more than 17,000 times.