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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

Governor Cuomo Announces Travel Ban Effective at 2:30 PM Today

MTA Suspending Above-Ground Subway Service as Well as LIRR and Metro-North Service as of 4:00 PM

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced a travel ban on all local and state roads in New York City, Long Island, and the Port Authority's trans-Hudson crossings, effective at 2:30 p.m. today. Additionally, the MTA will begin suspending service at 4:00 p.m. on the LIRR, Metro-North Railroad, Staten Island Railway, and above-ground subway lines in New York City. All bus services in New York City remain suspended until further notice.

At the request of Governor Cuomo, and with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's concurrence, the Port Authority has issued a travel ban on the following trans-Hudson crossings: George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, Holland Tunnel, Bayonne Bridge, Goethals Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing. On closed roads, only authorized emergency vehicles, hazard vehicles and critical healthcare personnel will be permitted.

"Safety is our number one priority – and right now, it is not safe for the general public to travel," said Governor Cuomo. "Closing the roads and exterior rail roads and subways is the right thing to do in this situation, because it helps emergency personnel do their jobs and respond to the storm as aggressively as possible. We are doing everything necessary to keep people safe, and I encourage all New Yorkers to wait out the storm indoors."

Details of the road and transit closings are below. These restrictions do not apply to emergency personnel, first responders and other critical employees such as

- **All local and state roads in New York City and Long Island:** A travel ban will go into effect on all state and local roads at 2:30 p.m. until further notice in New York City and on Long Island. Only authorized emergency vehicles, hazard vehicles and critical healthcare personnel will be permitted on these roads.
- **New York City subways and buses:** The last inbound or outbound trains on above-ground lines will depart at 4:00 p.m. today. After 4:00 p.m., service on above-ground lines will be suspended until further notice. Service will thin out before 4:00 p.m., and some subway lines may be delayed or suspended on a case-by-case basis as conditions warrant, so commuters should not wait until 4:00 p.m. to head home. All local and express bus service remains suspended until further notice.
- **LIRR, Metro-North and Staten Island Railroad:** The last inbound or outbound trains will depart at 4:00 p.m. today. After 4:00 p.m., service will be suspended until further notice. Service will thin out before 4:00 p.m., and some rail services may be delayed or suspended on a case-by-case basis as conditions warrant, so commuters should not wait until 4:00 p.m. to head home.

Governor Cuomo also announced the closure of all State Parks and Department of Environmental Conservation properties and facilities located within the impacted areas, including facilities in Suffolk, Nassau, New York City, Westchester, Rockland, Orange and Putnam Counties.

According to latest forecasts the storm is predicted to bring 24-30 inches of snow by Sunday in New York City area with 18-24 inches likely on Long Island. Heavy winds with speeds between 30 and 40 mph are expected, with gusts as high as 55 mph, contributing to whiteout conditions and power outages. Coastal flooding remains a concern along parts of Long Island during this evening high tide.

On closed roads, only authorized emergency vehicles will be permitted. A violation of the travel ban is punishable as misdemeanor that includes fines of up to \$300. The Governor today signed an Executive Order authorizing the State to institute the travel ban on local and state roads.

Metro-North and LIRR customers can visit mta.info and monitor MTA email and text message service alerts, or @LIRR or @MetroNorth on Twitter for information about train resumption schedules. Subway, bus, Metro-North and LIRR customers can visit mta.info and monitor MTA email and text message service alerts, or @MTA, @NYCTsubway, @NYCTbus, @LIRR or @MetroNorth on Twitter for information about service resumption.

For road updates, New York State provides a travel advisory system that features real-time travel reports and road conditions, which can be accessed by dialing 511 or online at www.511ny.org. Thruway motorists are encouraged to sign up for TRANSalert e-mails which provide the latest traffic conditions along the Thruway. Motorists can sign up for TRANSalerts by following this link: <http://www.thruway.ny.gov/tas/index.shtml>. Thruway travelers can also get real-time updates by following @ThruwayTraffic on Twitter or by visiting <http://www.thruway.ny.gov> to see an interactive map showing traffic conditions for the Thruway and other New York State roadways.

Earlier this morning, Governor Cuomo declared a state of emergency for New York City as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange and Putnam Counties. Additional information from the Governor's earlier briefings is available [here](#).