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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Denton County Transportation Authority Continues Face Mask Mandate**

*Transportation Security Administration extends face mask requirement through March 18, 2022*

**LEWISVILLE, TX (Wednesday, January 19, 2022)** – In alignment with the Transportation Security Agency’s (TSA) [extension of the transit mask requirement](https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2021/08/20/tsa-extends-face-mask-requirement-through-march-18-2022) on August 20, 2021, the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) continues to require face coverings on all DCTA vehicles, at DCTA bus stops and train stations, and in the Downtown Denton Transit Center (DDTC). [Exemptions](https://www.tsa.gov/sites/default/files/ea-1546-21-01.pdf) to the face mask requirement for travelers under the age of 2 years old and those with certain disabilities also continue.

On January 31, 2021 TSA [announced](https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2021/01/31/tsa-implement-executive-order-regarding-face-masks-airport-security) the initial face mask requirement with an expiration date of May 11. On April 30, 2021 TSA [announced](https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2021/04/30/tsa-extends-face-mask-requirement-airports-and-throughout) an extension to the face mask requirement through September 13, 2021.

Passengers will not be allowed on DCTA vehicles without a proper face covering. In addition, riders must wear a face covering for the entire duration of their trip and when waiting for their vehicle at bus stops and train stations. As supply is available, DCTA will offer a complimentary mask to those who do not have one. Passengers who refuse to wear a proper mask covering will be refused service on DCTA services until they comply with the federal mandate. Also, those who violate the federal mask mandate could face civil penalties.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a proper face covering meets the below requirements:

* A properly worn mask completely covers the nose and mouth.
* Cloth masks made with two or more layers of breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source).
* Mask secured to the head with ties, ear loops or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they should have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers.
* Mask should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
* Mask should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves or punctures.

We’re taking the necessary precautions to make sure our vehicles are safe and clean during [COVID-19](https://www.dcta.net/media-center/news/2020/denton-county-transportation-authority-coronavirus-covid-19-update). In addition to the federal mask requirement, we also encourage passengers to maintain the recommended social distancing of six feet.

To learn more about what DCTA is doing to protect its passengers, visit [RideDCTA.net/health.](https://www.dcta.net/media-center/news/2020/denton-county-transportation-authority-coronavirus-covid-19-update)

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**About Denton County Transportation Authority**

Formed in 2002 and funded in 2003, the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) is a leader in advancing mobility initiatives while improving air quality, economic development and livability to serve its communities. The agency operates 19 fixed bus routes, 21-mile A-train commuter rail line, on-demand, paratransit and additional services throughout Denton County and surrounding areas. In FY’22, DCTA served approximately one million passengers system-wide. To learn more about how DCTA is shaping the future of North Texas, visit [RideDCTA.net](http://www.RideDCTA.net).