

Protocol for Public Transit

State and County public health protocols require IHEs to consider options for limiting non-essential travel and limiting shared-rides in on-campus transport vehicles.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)¹

On August 7, 2020 (and updated on October 1, 2020), the California Department of Public Health and Cal-OSHA issued interim COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Institutions of Higher Education that directs IHEs to “Limit, to the greatest extent permitted by law, external community members from entering the ... [campus grounds] and using campus resources, as the number of additional people onsite and/or intermixing with students, faculty, and staff increases the risk of virus transmission.” IHEs are required to consider options for limiting non-essential travel in accordance with state and local regulations and guidance. Students, faculty and staff who use mass transit are encouraged to use other transportation options (i.e., walking, biking, driving, or riding by car alone or with household members only) if feasible.

Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations requires signage at all principal entrances to campus, as well as notice on the campus webpage that describes any restrictions to campus access.

In addition, CDPH released industry guidance on July 29, 2020 for public and private passenger carriers (e.g., shuttle providers, taxis, and rideshare operators), transit agencies California state-supported intercity passenger rail operators (Capitol Corridor, San Joaquins and Pacific Surfliner), and passenger vessel operations.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH)²

On August 9, 2020, LACDPH issued guidance to IHE’s for developing measures to ensure physical distancing, including on-campus transport vehicles.

- Use of on-campus transport vehicles (e.g., buses, shuttle vans, etc.) is limited such that all riders are able to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from one another if feasible. Consider removing or spacing seats to support physical distancing or use of colored tape to mark seats that riders are allowed to use. Where possible, additional transport vehicles are available to support excess capacity on busy routes. If it is not feasible to maintain physical distance, then impermeable barriers have been installed to limit contact between riders.
- Where feasible, impermeable barriers have been installed to protect the driver from passengers that are boarding and exiting the vehicle.
- A passenger entry and exit plan has been developed to minimize physical contact and crowding with other passengers during entry and exit of the transport vehicle.
- All riders are required to wear cloth face coverings.
- Vehicle windows are opened, when practicable, to increase outdoor air flow.

Campus Protocol

The campus is served by seven public transportation bus lines, operated by Foothill Transit, with bus stops at various locations on major streets that access the campus. Foothill Transit, and all public transportation, is defined as an essential service exempt from the Stay At-Home orders. Foothill Transit has joined the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and transit agencies across the nation in committing to specific measures to help ensure that customers can safely use our service as the U.S. works to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Foothill Transit is coordinating closely with the L.A. County Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on riding guidelines.

¹ See page 20, Section 11: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-higher-education--en.pdf>

² See page 8 for guidance on on-campus transport vehicles: :

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_HigherEducation.pdf

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During this period, the campus is coordinating with Foothill Transit to communicate service changes/disruptions for our campus community. Through the end of the Fall 2020 semester, CPP students can board local and Silver Streak buses by showing their valid school ID to the bus operator. The following safety protocols should be adhered to by all riders taking Foothill Transit lines:

1. As required by [Foothill Transit](#), all passengers must wear face coverings at all times when they are waiting for a bus and the whole time they are on the bus.
2. Passengers must enter and exit the buses using the rear entrance only until October 18, 2020. Passengers who need to use the ramp may still board through the front door. Foothill Transit is currently not enforcing fares until October 18. Note: Through the end of the Fall 2020 semester, CPP students can board local and Silver Streak buses for free by showing their valid school ID to the bus operator.
3. Daily [health screenings](#) shall be completed by all employees and students prior to physical coming to campus.
4. Foothill Transit is installing new bus operator barriers on most buses that allow passengers to approach the fare box while maintaining safety. If your bus has a barrier and is collecting fares, you will be directed to board through the front door.
5. Face coverings or masks are required on Foothill Transit, and riders should maintain physical distance whenever possible while using the system, unless person is exempt due to other health issues.³ Foothill Transit will not deny service to customers without a face covering, and if there are valid medical reasons not to wear a mask.
6. Once on board, passengers are asked to maintain a 6-foot distance between themselves and the operator and stagger seating to maintain distance from other passengers.
7. If there are too many people already on board to maintain a safe distance, wait for the next bus.
8. To help people keep a safe distance, Foothill Transit buses are targeting 15 customers plus the ADA accessible seats. The larger articulated (bendy) buses that serve the Silver Streak are targeting 20 customers plus the ADA accessible seats.
9. Allow sufficient time for the boarding and disembarking process so that crowds do not form at the doors and passengers can enter or exit the vehicle with at least 6 feet of social distance between each person.
10. For campus owned and maintained bus shelters, spacing tools (such as markers, signs or lines of tape on the ground) at passenger pickup/drop-off locations shall be used to show passengers where to stand to maintain at least 6 feet of social distance while they wait, benches and shelters sanitized, and trash receptacles emptied daily.
11. Before boarding, all passengers should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.⁴
12. Conversations while riding public transit shall be limited.⁵
13. Foothill Transit's team cleans and disinfects high-touch surfaces on buses after each trip, on top of daily full-bus disinfection.
14. Foothill Transit team members have been provided with the recommended tools to protect driver and passenger safety, such as cloth face coverings, disinfectant wipes, soap, hand sanitizer, barriers, and gloves as necessary. Foothill Transit cleans and disinfects the interiors of their buses and facilities daily.

³ The CDC is advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others (CDC 2020a).

⁴ According to the CDC, handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. See <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>.

⁵ Droplets expelled through talking, singing, and other verbal activities are known to contribute to virus dispersion (CNN 2020; NEJM 2020). Necessary verbal activities, such as requesting a stop, are not precluded.