

## **Mandatory Face Coverings for RDN Transit Users**

As of August 24, 2020, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), in alignment with BC Transit, and other transportation agencies across the province, will be following BC Transit's recent Mandatory Face Covering Policy on all RDN Transit buses. The policy will be implemented as an educational step without enforcement. RDN Transit employees will assume if someone is not wearing a face covering the person meets the exclusion criteria below:

- Anyone with an underlying medical condition or disability which inhibits the ability to wear a mask or face covering;
- Persons unable to place or remove a mask or face covering without assistance;
- Children under five (5) years of age;
- Employees working behind a physical barrier or within areas designated for employees and not for public access; and
- Police, employees, or first responders in an emergency situation.

We recognize the advice from health professionals, including Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, has been to wear face coverings when physical distancing is not possible including on transit vehicles. Customers have indicated making the use of face coverings mandatory will create a more comfortable environment. For more information on the BC Transit Together We Ride campaign visit: [bctransit.com/together-we-ride](https://bctransit.com/together-we-ride)

"We strongly encourage our RDN Transit riders to wear a face covering while traveling, as community safety is more important than ever," said Chair Ian Thorpe. "Please continue to be kind to one another as we are all doing our best. Thank you in advance for doing your part." Two RDN teams will be distributing 500 free face coverings starting at the Woodgrove Transit Exchange at 9:00 a.m. and Parksville Transit Exchange at 9:30 a.m. on August 24, 2020. They will travel to various transit exchanges throughout the region that morning to handout free face covering, 1 per rider to encourage the public to wear a face covering.

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