



Supervisor Tony Buffington
Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash



Metro to Re-Open Additional Services on August 16th

More buses, more trains, and more hours of service...

Sent: July 28, 2020

Metro will add more buses, more trains, and more hours of service beginning on **Sunday, August 16, 2020**, restoring most service to pre-COVID levels while maintaining a strong response posture to COVID-19. Metrorail will add 15 hours more service per week, with opening times returning to normal and the system closing two hours later each night in anticipation of potential increases in ridership after Labor Day.

WMATA has issued updates to reflect the latest information with the August dates for adding rail and bus service and additional measures they are taking to protect riders and employees.

Effective Sunday, August 16

Metrorail will open at 5 a.m. weekdays, 7 a.m. on Saturdays, 8 a.m. on Sundays, and will close daily at 11 p.m.

- Weekdays Red Line trains will operate every 5 minutes during peak periods and 12 minutes off-peak; all others lines every 8 minutes during peak periods and 15 minutes off-peak.
- On weekends Red Line trains will operate every 12 minutes; all other lines every 15 minutes.
- Six stations west of Ballston re-open - McLean, Tysons Corner, Greensboro, Spring Hill, Wiehle-Reston East and West Falls Church.
- Arlington Cemetery Station remains closed as Arlington National Cemetery is currently closed to the general public.

Effective Sunday, August 23

Metrobus service will operate beginning at 4 a.m. and end at midnight daily. (Schedule varies by route. View timetables for details.)

- Weekday bus service will be available on 174 routes with most operating close to normal.
- Weekend bus service will be available on 109 routes on Saturday and 99 routes on Sunday.
- Rear-door boarding remains in effect and fares temporarily waived.

The increased service will allow Metro to provide greater transit options for the region, while still maintaining stepped up COVID-19 cleaning protocols. Trains, buses and stations are cleaned daily, high-touch surfaces wiped down and disinfected, and routine deep-cleaning at stations.

Customers are reminded that masks or face coverings are required when traveling on Metro per guidance from the CDC to protect the health and safety of others. This includes stations, trains, buses and MetroAccess vehicles.

As ridership increases, social distancing may not be possible on trains and buses. Customers may wish to consider traveling during off-peak hours and other travel alternatives such as walking, biking, or scooters if possible.

The July 20 press release with details on this information can be [found here](#)



Metro Recovery Plan UPDATE

JULY 22, 2020

RE-ENTRY PHASE BEGINS IN AUGUST



RAIL CHANGES: AUGUST 16

- Return to peak/off-peak
- Increase service to 90% of pre-Covid-19 service
 - **YL SV OR GR BL** : every 8 minutes weekday peak; every 15 minutes all other times
 - **RD** : every 5 minutes weekday peak; every 12 minutes all other times
- Expand hours of operation
 - Weekdays: 5 AM - 11 PM
 - Saturdays: 7 AM - 11 PM
 - Sunday: 8 AM - 11 PM
- Six stations reopen
 - Wiehle-Reston East, Spring Hill, Greensboro, Tysons Corner, McLean and West Falls Church
- Resume charging for parking
- Expand After-Hours Ride-Hailing Program (late-night Lyft subsidy now \$6 - wmata.com/afterhours)



BUS CHANGES: AUGUST 23

- Expand hours of operation to 4 am - Midnight (one hour later)
- Increase service on weekdays and weekends
 - Weekdays: 73% of pre-Covid-19 service
 - Saturdays: 87% of pre-Covid-19 service
 - Sundays: 86% of pre-Covid-19 service
- Continue rear-door boarding and no fare collection



PROTECTING CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES



- Face covering required for all employees and customers
- Distribute free masks and hand sanitizer for customers
- Daily cleaning of stations, railcars and buses, with focus on high-touch areas and operator compartments
- Pilot UV light sterilizer on escalator handrails



See the back for our phased approach to Metro's Recovery Plan.
For more information, go to wmata.com/plan.





Phased approach for Metro Services

Phase 1: Stabilization Summer 2020

Phase 2: Managed Re-Entry Begins in August 2020

Phase 3: Recovery Date TBD

RAIL

- Implementation in progress
- ~20-minute headways
- Hours of Service:
Weekdays 5 AM - 9 PM
Weekends 8 AM - 9 PM
- Stations west of Ballston closed
- Effective June 8, cars one and eight reopened

- Starts August 16, 2020
- Increasing service to 90% of pre-Covid-19 levels
- Hours of Service:
Weekdays 5 AM - 11 PM
Saturdays 7 AM - 11 PM
Sunday 8 AM - 11 PM
- 87 of 91 stations will be open (Platform Improvement Project stations and Arlington Cemetery Station remain closed)
- Effective June 28, 15 stations that were closed due to Covid-19 response reopened

- Estimated start in Spring 2021
- Ridership peaks emerging, evenings reviving
- Service near pre-pandemic levels, with peak service
- Hours of Service:
Weekdays 5 AM - Midnight

BUS

- Implementation in progress
- Address current crowding issues
- Sunday-like headways, with some adjustments based on ridership to date
- Sunday-only routes operated; fewer on weekends
- Hours of Service:
4 AM - 11 PM
- Rear-door boarding, front of bus isolated

- Starts August 23, 2020
- Increasing service on weekdays and weekends
 - Weekdays: 73% of pre-Covid-19 service (116 lines operating normal or reduced frequencies; 37 lines not operating)
 - Weekends: ~86% of pre-Covid-19 service (~73-83 lines operating normal or reduced frequencies; ~12 lines not operating)
- Hours of Service:
4 AM - Midnight (varies by route)
- Rear-door boarding, front of bus still isolated

- Estimated start in Spring 2021
- Full weekday service
- All routes operating
- Normal hours of service
- Resume front-door boarding
- Possibly accelerate installation of targets on rear doors, enabling all-door boarding

GOALS

- Support region's managed reentry
- Earn public trust that bus and rail travel is safe
- Effectively communicate changing service fair plans

SERVICE RESTORATION POLICY

1. Protect employees
2. Protect customers by providing service that enables safe social distancing
3. Stay ahead of demand until vaccine or herd immunity makes social distancing unnecessary

Continuously monitor crowding

Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony

Be safe!



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