

## STATEMENT FROM TOPEKA METRO GENERAL MANAGER

With the recent disclosure of a positive test case among our workforce, the care and safety of our employees and passengers has always been important, but never more so than now. While positive cases across the United States are increasing, we have continued to build on our successful safety record during COVID-19 by instituting additional metrics as a measure of our commitment to the safety of riders and employees. This measure of transparency is our way of continuing to foster the trust and confidence among our passengers and employees.

We are committed to continue to provide safe and courteous service to the community and a healthy environment for our employees as we not only require them to wear a mask while at work, but also encourage our employees to be cognizant of their exposure to COVID-19 when off the clock.

### Employee Well-being:

- All employees were granted additional paid leave for COVID-related situations. This includes taking care of children or a family member, self-quarantining, or any other issue.
- Masks are required for all employees; hand sanitizer and gloves have been provided to them as well. Disinfecting wipes are available on all vehicles.
- Rear boarding and fare free were implemented back in March to facilitate social distancing.
- We instituted a safety barrier and chain between our operators, the fare box, and the riding public as an initial measure while we explore alternatives for a better solution.

### Facility Cleaning and Disinfection:

- The facility and depot are cleaned and disinfected nightly and spot cleaning on high contact areas are performed on our buses throughout the day while in service.
- Social-distancing markers are placed on the floor in the hallways, notification of the same is posted on walls and doors in our facilities.
- Regimented daily cleaning has been regularly instituted since COVID-19, in the event of a positive employee case within the facility or on our vehicles.

### Vehicle Sanitization and Cleaning:

- Vehicles are randomly assigned and rotated out of service.
- Any vehicle that has a potential positive case of an employee or passenger exhibiting symptoms is immediately removed from service and sanitized before returning to service.
- “Ambassadors” have been hired to assist in spot cleaning and provide information during the service day.

### Community Involvement:

- Metro participates in multiple networks around our community to assist with best practices on how to ensure the safety of our community.
- Free masks and sanitizing wipes are available to the public on all buses.

Topeka Metro’s operating team communicates frequently with government and health care officials and will continue to adapt to this ever-changing situation. The one thing the general public and Topeka Metro employees can have assurance on is that we, at Topeka Metro, are not in the business of being complacent and there has never been a more critical time to be vigilant about our collective safekeeping.

Thank you for your attention to this.

**Robert Nugent**, Topeka Metro General Manager