



February 18, 2021 Update (#276)

To: Board Members, Residents & Building Staff
From: Charles H. Greenthal Management Corp.
Re: *Governor Cuomo Announces 22-Hour Subway Service Will Start February 22nd*

Over the holiday weekend, Governor Cuomo, accompanied by MTA officials announced that overnight subway service would start a phased return to normal schedules starting February 22nd. Instead of being closed from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. for cleaning, the system will be closed from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m.

This slow return to normalcy is due to the city's success in reducing the number of new cases and fatalities in the city. Currently, public health experts agree that surface transmission of COVID-19 is exceedingly rare, and that mass transit is reasonably safe if riders continue to wear masks (*and sanitize their hands after being in public*). This is supported by a [study that was commissioned by the American Public Transportation Association](#), which found no direct correlation between public transit use and the spread of COVID-19, either worldwide, or in New York City. The authors of the study concluded public transit is relatively safe. as long as people wear masks, and trains and buses are well-ventilated.

Based on extensive research, interviews with public health experts, and new analysis of various data sources, the study found the following:

1. No direct correlation has been found between use of urban public transit and transmission of COVID-19.
2. An analysis of public transit ridership in multiple cities shows no correlation with the rise or fall of local COVID-19 cases.
3. Mask wearing has been shown to be effective at reducing person-to-person transmission.
4. There are several possible explanations for the lack of correlation between public transit ridership and COVID-19 cases, compared to higher-risk settings, including limited talking by riders, high ventilation rates on transit vehicles, and the relatively short duration of most transit trips.
5. It appears that what you do at the end of a trip affects the probability of contracting the virus far more than the mode of travel.
6. There will be long-term health consequences if people switch in large numbers from public transit to private cars.

Subway trains will continue to run overnight, despite the closure, as they are used to transport workers and police.

Management will continue to monitor all city, state and federal announcements and guidelines on this subject and will provide updates to you, as new information becomes available.

Be well and stay safe.