



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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**JANICE HAHN**

Supervisor, Fourth District

May 4, 2020

Phil Washington  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Phil:

This morning's Los Angeles Times features a story with the headline, "*Coughing echoes through the bus and Metro drivers wonder, 'Am I going to catch it today?'*." The article, by Laura Nelson, details the disturbing experiences of many Metro bus drivers who are working on the frontlines of this pandemic and are worried about their own health and the health of their passengers, many of whom are not wearing face coverings. **I believe Metro can and should require face coverings to board Metro buses and trains in order to protect the health of both its passengers and operators.**

The latest Los Angeles County Public Health Order requires that face coverings be worn in grocery stores and other essential businesses. Transit is considered essential infrastructure, however Metro has chosen to encourage bus and rail passengers to wear face coverings rather than requiring them to. Additionally, Metro has unfairly put the onus on bus operators to decide whether to allow passengers without face coverings on buses and to enforce social distancing.

Given what we know about the COVID-19 virus, the policy of not requiring face coverings puts both Metro passengers and bus drivers at risk. Especially since Metro has reduced service making social distancing sometimes impossible. Because so many other essential workers, from grocery store employees to restaurant workers, rely on Metro to get to and from work, this policy threatens to compound the spread of this virus across our County.

I believe Metro should immediately enforce a requirement that all passengers wear face coverings while on Metro buses and trains. This matter is urgent and should be addressed before our next Board of Directors meeting.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

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