



## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
September 30, 2020

---

### **WeGo joins ranks with top American transit agencies in COVID-19 fight** ***Public Transit operators make commitment to heightened health and safety practices***

**NASHVILLE** – WeGo Public Transit is joining ranks with top tier transit agencies like Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), New York City Transit Authority, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit System, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Health & Safety Commitments Program to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The APTA Health & Safety Commitments Program is designed to help public transit agencies put in place their own, individualized policies and practices that transit users want and expect. The Program defines four core categories of responsibilities – for every transit agency and for their passengers – making this a true partnership for health and safety. They are:

- Following public health guidelines from official sources
- Protecting each other by requiring face coverings and other protection
- Keeping passengers informed and empowered to choose the safest times and routes to ride
- Putting health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill.

While WeGo Public Transit has newly joined the nationwide pledge, the agency has shown dedication to these practices since the early stages of the pandemic with extensive documentation and consistent communication with riders and public health officials.

“We’ve been on this since day one,” said Chief Executive Officer Steve Bland. “Our practices have mirrored these health and safety guidelines since the beginning of the pandemic. Within the first week, we had Metro Public Health onsite, assessing our cleaning strategies and helping us determine the most meaningful practices we could adopt to protect Nashville. Joining this nationwide push was a natural move for us and a sign of our continued commitment to connect people to their lives and communities, safely.”

While ridership may be half of a typical day since the pandemic began, WeGo has transported thousands of essential workers to and from their critical jobs and is proud to share that the agency has seen less than 5 percent infection rate among its employees in the past six months.

A full list of WeGo's COVID-19 response, including an overview of the ongoing safety measures put in place to protect both passengers and employees, is available at <https://nashvillemta.org/Nashville-MTA-WeGo-Covid-19-Updates.asp>.

# # #



Editor's Note: To request this info in an alternative format, call 615-862-5950 for the ADA Coordinator.