

Essential Trip Tips from Baltimore City Department of Transportation

The State of Maryland is currently under a stay-at-home order by Governor Hogan, but essential trips are still allowed. These may include:

- Trips to a grocery store or food distribution site
- Trips for health care
- Trips to essential jobs
- Trips to check on family and friends
- Trips for exercise

Even for essential trips, DOT recommends staying as close to home as possible. Staying near your home reduces exposure and the likelihood of crashes on the roadway when our hospital system is already overburdened. It's also good to support local businesses in your area that have remained open during this time. DOT has tips to make sure that all of these essential trips can be taken safely with reduced exposure to COVID-19.

Trips on Foot

- Walking may be your best option to get fresh air and exercise while on an essential trip!
- Remember to give others as much space as possible on the sidewalk. It may be necessary to wait for someone to pass or step to the side in order to keep 6 feet of space between people.
- Be careful at intersections and only cross when safe to do so. Always look for oncoming traffic, even when the pedestrian signal is lit.
- Give extra space and priority to people who need the sidewalk, such as wheelchair users and people with strollers.
- If running and exhaling hard, please give others even more than 6 feet of space.

Trips by Bus

- The Charm City Circulator is running on its normal schedule. Most MTA buses are running on modified schedules, so check for updates before heading out: www.charmcitycirculator.com and <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/coronavirus>
- Passengers should enter through the rear door-- this minimizes interaction with the bus driver.
- Passengers should sit as far apart as possible, wear a face covering, and try not to touch surfaces if possible, although buses are being frequently disinfected.

Trips by Car

- Although we are seeing reduced vehicular traffic, there has been an uptick in speeding and reckless driving. We encourage motorists to drive cautiously to help reduce crashes.
- We urge drivers to be cautious on the roadway and to be on the watch for people walking or biking, especially near healthcare facilities, grocery stores, and parks. Remember, pedestrians have the right of way in crosswalks.

Trips by Bicycle or Personal Mobility Device (skateboard etc.)

- Bicycles and personal devices can be a great way to get exercise on an essential trip!
- Remember to follow all traffic laws and to plan your route before riding.
- Give pedestrians the right-of-way at intersections.
- Allow at least 6 feet of space when passing another person and even more than 6 feet of space if you are exhaling hard.

Trips by Dockless Scooter

- Spin and JUMP vehicles are still available for rent. The location of vehicles from all companies can be seen in the Transit App.
- Free rides are provided for anyone (janitor, nurse, etc.) working at a hospital – see the JUMP and Spin websites for details.
- When riding a shared mobility scooter, riders should follow all traffic laws and plan their routes before riding.
- Riders are encouraged to wear backpacks when transporting items.
- Personal precautions should be taken when riding a shared vehicle, including wiping down the handlebars and wearing gloves.

Trips by Metro/Light Rail

- Metro and Light Rail are running on modified schedules. For updates check: <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/coronavirus>.
- Passengers should sit as far apart as possible, wear a face covering, and try not to touch surfaces if possible, although passenger cars are being frequently disinfected.
- Payment by Charm Pass, the mobile ticketing app available for smartphones, is recommended to reduce the need for touching ticketing machines.

Trips by Ride Share/Taxi

- Passengers should sit as far from the driver as possible.
- Avoid touching surfaces, wear a face covering, and use personal protective equipment, if possible.

Trips by Harbor Connector

- The Harbor Connector has completely suspended service as of April 6, 2020. For updates check: <https://www.charmcitycirculator.com/content/harbor-connector>

