



PRESS RELEASE

Strong support for face coverings in public places, new survey finds

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BREMERTON, Wash. – About 77 percent of people agree that wearing a face covering or mask in public is necessary, based on 1,731 responses to a recent survey conducted by Kitsap Transit that closed on June 21. Only 11 percent of respondents disagreed, and 12 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.

After weeks of preparation, Kitsap Transit is ready to provide disposable masks to customers this Friday, when a statewide mandatory face-covering order goes into effect in indoor and outdoor public spaces. If a rider does not have a face covering, such as a bandanna or face mask, Kitsap Transit will provide one upon request.

“Let’s not give germs a ticket to ride,” said John Clauson, Executive Director of Kitsap Transit. “We are taking every precaution to create the safest environment possible, from daily disinfection of our fleet to offering face masks and hand sanitizer to customers in need.”

The Kitsap Transit survey, which was conducted online from June 12-21, provides a snapshot of what the community in Kitsap County believes when it comes to face masks as well as how people perceive their risk of severe COVID-19 illness (see tables). The survey sample is a convenience sample, but the respondents make up a diverse cross-section of the community. Analysis of the full survey is ongoing.

The survey questionnaire, which was modeled on COVID-related surveys conducted by Community Transit, Regional Transportation District in Denver and Gallup, asked respondents to identify themselves as belonging to one of four segments, which are broken out in the tables below:

- Current riders (“Current”) – 552 respondents
- Former riders due to COVID-19 (“Ex, COVID”) – 752 respondents
- Former riders due to some other reason (“Ex, non-COVID”) – 317 respondents
- Never used Kitsap Transit (“Non-Rider”) – 110 respondents

The questionnaire also sought to understand how risky the public feels it is to ride Kitsap Transit relative to other activities, such as eating in a restaurant or going to a grocery store.

When reading the tables on the pages that follow, percentages should be read down each column and indicate what proportion of each segment selected the answer choice shown.

Kitsap Transit Summer 2020 Survey Topline Results

Face Coverings/Masks

In the past 7 days, I have worn a mask/face covering when outside of my home.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Have done this	93%	97%	93%	94%	95%
Am considering doing this	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%
Have not considered this	6%	2%	4%	4%	4%

I have a face covering or mask.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Agree/Strongly Agree	89%	95%	91%	95%	92%
Disagree/Strongly Agree	8%	3%	5%	5%	5%

I can afford to buy a face covering or mask.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Agree/Strongly Agree	86%	93%	85%	93%	89%
Disagree/Strongly Agree	7%	4%	5%	5%	5%

I have a medical condition/disability that prevents me from wearing a face covering or mask.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Agree/Strongly Agree	7%	3%	6%	2%	5%
Disagree/Strongly Agree	78%	91%	79%	89%	84%

I believe wearing a face covering or mask in public is necessary.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Strongly Agree	46%	67%	56%	60%	58%
Agree	21%	18%	19%	19%	19%
Disagree	7%	3%	6%	6%	5%
Strongly Disagree	9%	4%	6%	7%	6%

In public places, wearing a face covering protects others from getting my flu-like illness.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Strongly Agree	43%	58%	48%	50%	51%
Agree	34%	29%	31%	34%	31%
Neither Agree/Disagree	13%	8%	11%	7%	10%
Disagree	5%	3%	6%	4%	4%
Strongly Disagree	6%	2%	4%	5%	4%

In public places, wearing a face covering protects me from touching my mouth and nose with unclean hands.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Strongly Agree	36%	45%	34%	40%	40%
Agree	31%	35%	37%	35%	34%
Neither Agree/Disagree	13%	11%	14%	13%	12%
Disagree	10%	6%	9%	7%	8%
Strongly Disagree	10%	3%	7%	5%	6%

In public places, only people who are sick should wear a face covering.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Strongly Agree	8%	5%	10%	7%	7%
Agree	7%	3%	7%	7%	5%
Neither Agree/Disagree	13%	8%	14%	8%	11%
Disagree	23%	19%	17%	21%	20%
Strongly Disagree	48%	65%	52%	56%	57%

In public places, everyone should wear a face covering, unless a doctor advises against it.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Strongly Agree	45%	63%	54%	50%	55%
Agree	21%	19%	16%	23%	19%
Neither Agree/Disagree	16%	10%	14%	11%	13%
Disagree	7%	5%	7%	7%	6%
Strongly Disagree	11%	3%	9%	9%	7%

In public places, a person infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread it to others, even if he/she doesn't show symptoms.

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Strongly Agree	61%	78%	68%	75%	71%
Agree	26%	16%	21%	16%	20%
Neither Agree/Disagree	9%	5%	8%	4%	7%
Disagree	3%	1%	1%	3%	1%
Strongly Disagree	1%	<1%	2%	2%	1%

Risk Perceptions

How safe is it to do the following activities at this point in time?

Answer Choices	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Percentage who selected "Somewhat safe" or "Very Safe"					
Exercise outside	89%	90%	90%	93%	90%
Visit a health-care provider	72%	61%	64%	62%	65%
Visit a drug store/pharmacy	70%	54%	58%	56%	60%
Visit family	68%	52%	57%	59%	58%
Visit a grocery store	67%	52%	54%	56%	58%
Ride Kitsap Transit	72%	32%	43%	23%	46%
Visit friends	55%	38%	41%	40%	44%
Visit a hair & nail salon / barber	47%	31%	35%	39%	37%
Pick up rack card or brochure	45%	32%	37%	31%	37%
Eat in a restaurant	41%	26%	34%	29%	33%
Take a taxi or Uber	37%	16%	23%	23%	25%

Do you consider yourself at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19?

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider	Total
Definitely no	28%	18%	21%	18%	361 (21%)
Probably no	40%	38%	36%	29%	621 (36%)
Probably yes	23%	27%	31%	34%	437 (25%)
Definitely yes	10%	17%	12%	19%	226 (13%)

Please rate how each of the following current or potential bus and ferry service improvements increases the chances you will use Kitsap Transit during COVID-19. (Rating scale was Not at all, Slightly, Moderately, or Very Much.)

Answer Choices	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-Rider
Percentage who selected "Very Much"				
Closing some seats to encourage social distancing	41%	33%	27%	22%
Daily disinfection of all high-touch areas on buses/ferries	61%	49%	44%	35%
Posters on how to help stop the spread of COVID-19	28%	17%	15%	16%
Requiring all passengers to wear a face covering	53%	61%	51%	41%
Providing a face mask to riders who need one	50%	59%	48%	41%
Providing hand sanitizer to riders	49%	51%	44%	37%
Limits on passenger loads to support social distancing	50%	48%	38%	35%
Touch-free fare collection (no cash) on KT services	49%	45%	35%	29%
Restore bus trips that were temporarily suspended	44%	24%	27%	21%
Extend fare-free period	42%	22%	25%	20%

Employment status of survey respondents

*Percentages should be read **down** each column.*

	Current	Ex, COVID	Ex, non-COVID	Non-rider	Total
% Work outside Home	67%	22%	37%	25%	674 (39%)
% Work from Home	15%	60%	25%	23%	637 (37%)
% Unemployed	7%	4%	9%	5%	97 (6%)
% Retired	10%	15%	26%	45%	304 (18%)
Have motor vehicle	75%	93%	92%	96%	1,434 (83%)
Transit subsidy (employer)	55%	58%	31%	16%	814 (47%)

Demographics of survey respondents Percentages should be read **down** the column.

	Kitsap Transit Survey Respondents	Kitsap County, total population (ACS 2018, Census)
Gender		
Female	898 (55%)	49%
Male	677 (41%)	51%
Other / Prefer Not to Say	70 (4%)	na
Age		
Under 35	250 (14%)	24%
35-44	308 (18%)	12%
45-54	346 (20%)	12%
55-64	436 (25%)	14%
65 and over	305 (18%)	18%
Race/Ethnicity		
White	1,384 (85%)	81%
Black or African American	44 (3%)	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	41 (3%)	1%
Asian or Asian-American	124 (8%)	5%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	31 (2%)	1%
Other or Two or More	102 (6%)	9%
Hispanic	78 (5%)	8%

A full report on the survey will be published in the coming weeks. For updates and resources on COVID-19, visit Kitsap Public Health District’s website at <https://kitsappublichealth.org/>.

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Hablar español?

Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

Nagsasalita ka ba ng Tagalog?

Paki-tawagan ang numero 1-800-501-7433 normal na oras ng trabaho. Customer Service kawani ay kumonekta sa isang taga interpretor upang tulungan sagutin ang iyong katanungan.

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