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### **Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Issues Federal Mask Mandate**

**Coupeville, WA** -- Island Transit, Island County's public transit agency, will continue its commitment to deliver safe transportation across Island County. Part of this commitment is to ensure that all passengers who utilize services will follow the federal mask mandate in response to the Executive Order signed Monday, January 21, 2021 by President Joe Biden. Island Transit has already taken great steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by providing additional safety measures for passengers, operators, and staff.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) now requires all passengers, operators, or visitors wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while riding, getting on and off rides, and entering transportation facilities. This order extends to waiting areas such as bus shelters and bus stations. Concurrently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its order requiring persons to wear masks on all public transportation. These orders make refusal to wearing a mask a violation of federal law.

There are two notable exemptions from wearing a mask: children under two years of age and persons with a disability that makes wearing a mask dangerous to their health. Previously approved exemptions may no longer apply; all persons are recommended to review the CDC's guidelines to ensure appropriate measures are taken to comply with the current mandate.

CDC guidance for attributes of acceptable masks in context of the order can be found <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>

For additional information regarding this order please visit [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC\\_GMTF\\_01-29-21-p.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf)

Learn more about Island Transit's commitments to passenger health and safety during the pandemic at [www.islandtransit.org/commitments](http://www.islandtransit.org/commitments) Questions? Please call 360-678-7771.

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