



**Columbia Area Transit**  
224 Wasco Loop  
Hood River, OR 97031  
rideCATbus.org  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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Hood River, Oregon, U.S.A.—For release March 17, 2020

## **Columbia Area Transit (CAT) Takes Further Action to Mitigate Spread of COVID-9 (Coronavirus)**

On Sunday, March 15, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci provided the following guidance to decision makers regarding the actions they are considering to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 (the Coronavirus): “If it looks like you are overreacting, you are probably doing the right thing.”

To that end—and working with our County, State, and Federal partners—CAT is taking the following unprecedented actions to help curb the spread of the virus by reallocating our resources to the Countywide emergency response:

### **Local Trips (Including The Dalles)**

- CAT will continue providing the following local peak-hour fixed-route services
  - The Dalles
    - 6:30am trip from Hood River to The Dalles
    - 7:00am trip from The Dalles to Hood River
    - 4:15pm trip from Hood River to The Dalles
    - 4:45pm trip from The Dalles to Hood River





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- City Route
  - 7:00am–10:00am circulator trips—every 30-45 minutes
  - 4:00am–7:00pm Circulator trips—every 30-45 minutes
- Cascade Locks – DAR trips only
  - 7:30am trip from Hood River to Cascade Locks
  - 8:15am trip from Cascade Locks to Hood River
  - 2:00pm trip from Hood River to Cascade Locks
  - 2:30pm trip from Cascade Locks to Hood River
  - 4:00pm trip from Hood River to Cascade Locks
  - 4:45pm trip from Cascade Locks to Hood River
- Upper Valley
  - Work and other essential travel from Upper Valley to Rosauers from 8:00-10am (All trips require call in)
  - Work trips and other essential travel from Rosauers to Upper Valley 4:00pm–5:00pm (All trips require call in)
- Cat will provide the following services midday to all of Hood River County (10:30am–3:30pm)
  - Dial-a-Ride only and only for essential trips (medical, employment, & limited shopping)

**Regional Trips**

- Services on the Gorge-to-Mountain Express are completed as of March 15<sup>th</sup> – services will likely return early December 2020
- Services on the Columbia Gorge Express will be limited to weekdays only and only the following trips:
  - 7:10am trip from Hood River to Portland
  - 4:10pm trip from Portland to Hood River

**Buses**

- CAT will be using smaller vehicles on the CGE Services as they are easier to wipe down after each trip
- All vehicles will be wiped down (seats, bars, and other contact surfaces) after each trip
- To the extent possible, drivers will be asking riders to distance themselves from other passengers

**Employees**

- The CAT office remains open, however no outside guests or visitors are permitted inside the office
- All Dispatch staff will be answering calls and booking rides while working from home



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## Community Support

- Employees who are healthy and would otherwise drive will be allocated to other responsibilities for the two-week period, including assisting with necessary emergency response efforts (e.g. food or medical supply delivery)

This is our initial response to the information that is being provided; additional action will be taken as warranted. Please check our website at [rideCATbus.org](http://rideCATbus.org) for the latest on our service response to the COVID-19 virus.

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For comments, questions, or concerns please call (541) 386-4202 or email us at [info@ridecatbus.org](mailto:info@ridecatbus.org)

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*Hood River County Transportation District provides public transportation in Hood River County under the name of Columbia Area Transit (CAT). We are a Special District organized under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 267. Our major sources of funding include grants from the Federal Transit Administration, several different sources from the State of Oregon, local property tax, and user fees.*

*The District was formed by a vote of Hood River County Residents in 1993.*

