

## Bus Operators Among Latest COVID-19 Cases

METRO has received confirmation 11 bus operators, two METRORail operators, three employees in the Operations Department, two employees in the METRO Police Department, one Customer Service employee, one Finance employee, one Human Resources employee, one Planning employee, one Procurement employee and one Administration employee have tested positive for COVID-19. This brings the total number of cases to 923 METRO employees and 166 contractors since March 2020.

Four hundred forty-five of the employees had no contact with the public. METRO tracks and reports all positive cases among its 4000 employees and the various contractors who provide services to METRO. We are also conducting temperature checks of employees and others before they begin their workday at METRO facilities or on our vehicles.

The first bus operator last worked Dec. 17 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following route:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
29 Cullen/Hirsch	12/6 – 12/10, 12/13 – 12/17	12:50 p.m. – 11:47 p.m.

The second bus operator last worked Dec. 17 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following route:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
56 Airline/Montrose	12/15 – 12/17	1:34 p.m. – 9:01 p.m.

The third bus operator last worked Dec. 17 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
6 Jensen/Greens	12/16	4:50 a.m. – 11:54 a.m.
51 Hardy - Kelley	12/12	1:02 p.m. – 9:02 p.m.
52 Hardy - Ley	12/10	3:12 a.m. – 12:20 pm.
56 Airline/Montrose	12/9	5:30 a.m. – 3:39 p.m.
86 FM 1960/Imperial Valley	12/4	9:06 a.m. – 12 p.m.
108 Veterans Memorial Express	12/6	5:17 a.m. – 9:13 a.m.
202 Kuykendahl P&R	12/6	2:54 p.m. – 6:51 p.m.
259 Eastex/Townsen/Kingwood P&R	12/7	5:50 a.m. – 7:58 a.m.
	12/15	5:20 a.m. – 9:14 a.m.
	12/16	3:44 p.m. – 8:09 p.m.
306 Fallbrook Employee Shuttle	12/13	12:15 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.
	12/17	6:16 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

The fourth bus operator last worked Dec. 19 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
51 Hardy-Ley	12/11, 12/18	12:37 p.m. – 9:08 p.m.
56 Airline/Montrose	12/7, 12/14	5:34 p.m. – 12:58 a.m.
	12/10, 12/17	1:44 p.m. – 9:58 p.m.
85 Antoine/Washington	12/12, 12/19	2:39 p.m. – 12:04 a.m.
86 FM 1960/Imperial Valley	12/6, 12/13	3:26 p.m. – 11:31 p.m.

The fifth bus operator is a trainee and did not have contact with the public.

The sixth bus operator last worked Dec. 17 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
5 Southmore	12/16	12:50 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
9 Gulfon/Holman	12/14	11:29 a.m. – 5:40 p.m.
	12/17	4:07 p.m. – 11:39 p.m.
28 OST-Wayside	12/15	1 p.m. – 10:23 p.m.
236 Maxey Road/Baytown P&R	12/14	4:41 a.m. – 9:14 a.m.
244 El Dorado/Monroe P&R	12/15	4:27 a.m. – 5:15 a.m.
		7:41 a.m. – 9:24 a.m.

The seventh bus operator last worked Dec. 20 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
76 Evergreen	12/11 – 12/12, 12/18 – 12/19	4:23 a.m. – 12:31 p.m.
247 Fuqua/Bay Area P&R	12/7- 12/8, 12/13 – 12/15	4:05 p.m. – 7:51 p.m.
418 Jury Shuttle	12/7 – 12/8, 12/13 – 12/15, 12/20	6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.

The eighth bus operator last worked Dec. 16 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
20 Canal/Memorial	12/4, 12/11	4:28 p.m. – 1:31 a.m.
29 Cullen/Hirsch	12/9, 12/16	4:53 p.m. – 12:36 a.m.
54 Scott	12/3, 12/10 12/5, 12/12	5:10 p.m. – 1:35 a.m. 3 p.m. – 1:36 a.m.
80 MLK/Lockwood	12/8, 12/15	4:39 p.m. – 1:27 a.m.

The ninth bus operator last worked Dec. 20 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
4 Beechnut	12/7, 12/14	2:01 p.m. – 5:56 p.m.
65 Bissonnet	12/7, 12/14 12/12, 12/19	4:32 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. 2:33 p.m. – 5:03 p.m.
82 Westheimer	12/11, 12/18 12/13, 12/20 12/17	6:41 a.m. – 2:05 p.m. 4:48 a.m. – 10:28 a.m. 9:56 a.m. – 1:36 p.m.
152 Harwin Express	12/12, 12/19	4:03 a.m. – 10:27 a.m.
292 West Bellfort/Westwood/TMC P&R	12/10	3:17 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
298 Kingsland/Addicks/NWTC/TMC P&R	12/13 12/17	3:16 p.m. – 6:01 p.m. 4:17 p.m. – 7:14 p.m.

The tenth bus operator last worked Dec. 18 and in the two weeks prior, drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
25 Richmond	12/6, 12/13	11:36 a.m. – 8:18 p.m.
65 Bissonnet	12/10, 12/17 12/11, 12/18	5:15 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. 4:52 a.m. – 9:03 a.m.
82 Westheimer	12/7 12/8 12/11 12/14	11:48 a.m. – 10:31 p.m. 10:18 a.m. – 5:32 p.m. 1:36 p.m. – 5:17 p.m. 3:01 p.m. – 11:33 p.m.
161 Wilcrest Express	12/5, 12/12	5:11 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.
298 Kingsland/Addicks/NWTC/TMC P&R	12/10, 12/17	3:52 p.m. – 6:43 p.m.

The eleventh bus operator last worked Dec. 17 and in the two weeks prior drove the following routes:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
2 Bellaire	12/6	1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
4 Beechnut	12/6 12/10	4:19 a.m. – 10:56 a.m. 4:24 a.m. – 1:13 p.m. 3:44 p.m. – 8:36 p.m.
25 Richmond	12/12	10 a.m. – 6:35 p.m.
75 Eldridge	12/17	5:02 a.m. – 2:54 p.m.
82 Westheimer	12/8 12/15	4:05 a.m. – 12:33 p.m. 4:45 a.m. – 12:53 p.m.
153 Harwin Express	12/11 12/13	6:07 a.m. – 3:42 p.m. 6:33 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
222 Grand Parkway P&R	12/13	2:02 p.m. – 8:14 p.m.
292 West Bellfort/Westwood/TMC P&R	12/8	3:32 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.
298 Kingsland/Addicks/NWTC/TMC P&R	12/17	4:17 p.m. – 7:14 p.m.

The first METRORail operator last worked Dec. 20 and in the two weeks prior, operated the following route:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
Red Line	12/7, 12/14 12/10, 12/17 12/18 12/19 12/20	5:14 a.m. – 5:14 p.m. 4:47 a.m. – 2 p.m. 4:23 a.m. – 2:14 p.m. 6:14 a.m. – 5:50 p.m. 5:14 a.m. – 8:21 a.m.

The second METRORail operator last worked Dec. 18 and in the two weeks prior, operated the following route:

ROUTE	DATE	TIME
Green Line	12/6 – 12/10, 12/13 – 12/17	3:24 a.m. – 2:36 p.m.

**\*The charts above reflect the days the employees were on duty two weeks prior to their last days on the job.**

The MPD officer is assigned to the HOV/HOT Motorcycle Unit and two weeks prior to testing positive was on duty Dec. 13-16.

The second MPD employee is a cadet who had no contact with the public.

All other employees had no contact with the public.

Anyone who comes in contact with an individual who tests positive should monitor themselves for possible symptoms, contact your health care provider as soon as you develop any symptoms, and self-isolate to

avoid possibly exposing others, including refraining from using public transportation.

METRO is working with public health officials so they can identify and notify anyone who traveled the routes driven by the operators during those time frames as well as anyone else who may have been impacted by the latest COVID-19 cases.

Federal law now requires anyone on the METRO system to wear a face mask. This includes rail stations, transit centers and bus stops. Plastic face shields are not considered masks. Exemptions are available for children under the age of two, a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask or wear one safely because of a disability defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Since mid-March 2020, METRO has sought to minimize the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission by operators or passengers by encouraging social distancing, placing plastic barriers between operators and passengers, providing access to hand sanitizer while on board our system and requiring masks.

However, with recent changes announced by the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and an increase in the number of individuals being vaccinated resulting in more employees returning to work, METRO will no longer call for only essential trips being made on METRO and will now allow full capacity on all bus and rail vehicles.

We appreciate and greatly value our riders and thank them for their assistance as we have continued to offer service throughout this pandemic. We have taken many actions, including working with the community at large, to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19.

METRO’s number one priority will continue to be protecting the health and safety of our customers, community and employees.