

School Specials - 2020/21

Key Messages for Schools

Edmonton

While there have been a variety of changes as a result of COVID-19, Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) is committed to continue providing safe, reliable transit service. ETS encourages students to familiarize themselves with these changes to prepare for the first day of school. If students have never used transit before, ETS also has a variety of online resources they can reference.

Key Messages for service

- As restrictions are lifted and Kindergarten to Grade 12 classes resume in September, ETS will reintroduce School Special bus routes to support families by providing an affordable transportation option for junior and senior high school students to get to school.
- School routes will be similar to last September. As usual, ETS has worked with the School Boards to time School Special bus routes to accommodate as many students as possible. This has resulted in time changes on several routes in response to changes in school start and finish times.
- Please note: Major bus route changes are tentatively planned for mid-2021. Stay tuned for more information throughout the school year. Up-to-date information can be found at edmonton.ca/newbusroutes

Mandatory Masks on ETS

- Effective August 1, 2020, wearing a mask or face covering is mandatory indoors in the publicly accessible areas of all City-owned and operated buildings, facilities, amenities and attractions, including transit, transit centres and LRT platforms. For more information on the mask bylaw and exemptions, please visit edmonton.ca/masks.
- This requirement applies to students on ETS service, unless otherwise exempt under the bylaw.
- ETS will focus on educating passengers on the importance of wearing a mask or face covering when using public transit or in public areas or facilities where physical distancing is not possible.
- All buses in service will be equipped with Operator shields. Bus shields and LRT cabs create separation and reduce potential COVID-19 transmission, so bus and LRT operators aren't required to wear masks when in the shielded area. However,

Operators and other public facing transit employees will wear masks when going into public areas.

Other Safety Measures

- ETS will maintain the enhanced level of cleaning/disinfecting that was implemented in response to COVID-19. This includes cleaning vehicles every time they return to the garage before they go back into service.
- The City of Edmonton is following Alberta Health Services guidance for public transit. Do your part to keep yourself and everyone safe by following [Alberta Health guidance for public transit](#).
- While maintaining 2 metres of physical distance between passengers may be challenging on public transit, ETS is encouraging passengers to practice physical distancing between themselves and others where possible.

First Riders Resources

- [Trip Planning Tools](#)
 - Includes information about the various ways you can plan your trip, including the ETS Trip Planner, third party apps and route schedules.
- [School Service Tool](#)
 - Provides information about service provided to K-12 schools and post secondary school
- Using the Bus: <https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/using-the-bus.aspx>
 - Includes information on what to do when waiting for a bus, boarding a bus, paying fares, exiting the bus and providing feedback
- Using the LRT: <https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/using-the-lrt.aspx>
 - Includes information about Proof of Payment areas at LRT Stations, waiting for the train, tips for while you are riding on the train and getting help on the train or at LRT stations
- What items can I bring on transit:
<https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/what-items-on-transit.aspx>
 - Includes information about what to do with items like backpacks, personal listening devices (i.e. phones, mp3 players), food and drink, as well as bikes.