



## For Immediate Release

October 29, 2020

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## The Bus Resumes Regular Service Hours

MERCED – The Bus will resume its regular fixed-route service operations starting Monday, November 2, 2020. The service had moved to a weekend schedule in mid-August due to several impacts related to COVID-19. The regular schedule will operate daily, Monday through Friday, with the weekend schedule reserved for Saturday and Sunday service only. As a part of the transition back to regular service, Dial-a-Ride will also resume services during its usual hours and locations in the west side communities of Los Banos, Dos Palos and Gustine. Paratransit service will resume its normal operations as well.

Some changes made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will remain in effect. All fares to ride The Bus continue to be suspended and masks are still required to be worn at all times while riding. Passengers will be required to remain seated while riding The Bus in order to minimize interactions between individuals; therefore, the number of passengers will be limited to the seating capacity of the vehicle. Passengers are advised to space out as much as possible while riding and to kindly avoid contact with the driver.

“The Bus is grateful for the community’s patience as we have worked through the challenges of the current pandemic,” said Christine Chavez, Transit Manager. “We are pleased to be able to resume full transit service and continue to provide efficient public transportation throughout Merced County.”

All bus schedules and hours of operation can be found at [www.mercedthebus.com](http://www.mercedthebus.com) or by calling (209) 723-3100. Real-time information regarding bus locations, services and arrival times can be found at [www.thebuslive.com](http://www.thebuslive.com) or by downloading ‘The Bus Live’ app on your smart phone for free. All fares are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 emergency. Passengers are asked to only use The Bus to provide or receive essential services and to wear a mask while on board as well as comply with social distancing requirements when possible. All buses are equipped with bike racks and are wheelchair accessible.

The Bus is the single public transportation service provider for all of Merced County and is administered by the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County and managed by the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG). For more information, please visit [www.mercedthebus.com](http://www.mercedthebus.com) or [www.mcagov.org](http://www.mcagov.org).

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