



# *Transit Watch:* Public Transit in Crisis



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The American Public Transportation Association publicized a [new report](#) last week that shows there is no direct correlation between using public transportation and the transmission of COVID-19. The study, which analyzed public transit use in multiple US and international cities this summer, also found that there will be long-term negative health consequences if large numbers of people switch from public transit to private cars.

This report is based on a comprehensive review of United States and global research regarding COVID-19 transmission and public transit, interviews with public health experts, and new analysis of various data sources. This report details the following findings:

- 1- No direct correlation has been found between use of urban public transit and transmission of COVID-19.
- 2- There will be long-term health consequences if people in large numbers switch from public transit to private cars.
- 3- An analysis of public transit ridership in multiple cities over the past three months shows no correlation with the rise or fall of local COVID-19 cases.
- 4- Mask wearing has been shown to be effective at reducing person-to-person transmission.
- 5- There are several possible explanations for the lack of correlation between the increase in public transit ridership and increasing COVID-19 cases.
- 6- It appears that what you do at the end of a trip affects the probability of contracting the virus far more than the mode of travel.

For more information, please contact the California Transit Association at [COVID-19@caltransit.org](mailto:COVID-19@caltransit.org).

