

District 5

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hello everyone!

Please see the following announcements as I continue to receive important information to share with you.

Stay safe!

-Council Member Deborah D. Figgs-Sanders



A Statement from Mayor Rick Kriseman

Mayor

Rick Kriseman

"A statewide, uniform, reasonable order limiting non-essential movement and activity will better protect Floridians and prove far more effective at flattening the curve than multiple policies among 67 counties and hundreds of cities and towns. Only Governor DeSantis can mitigate inconsistencies and confusion by ordering Floridians to 'stay at home' as soon as possible. Without such an order, St. Petersburg and municipalities across the state are likely to move forward on their own."



Visit [St.Pete/COVID-19](https://www.stpete.org/COVID-19) for more updates.

Temporary Suspension to Curbside Recycling Collection Service



City of St. Petersburg curbside recycling collection will be temporarily suspended starting today, Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

The suspension of service is due to a mechanical issue at the vendor's recycling facility that processes curbside recycling. The suspension of service is unrelated to COVID-19.

Residents can still drop off recyclables at City Brush Sites and other recycling drop off sites across the city. Visit [stpete.org/brushsites](https://www.stpete.org/brushsites) for locations and more information.

Collection service will be resumed as soon as possible. The City of St. Petersburg apologizes for the inconvenience and appreciates your patience.

Questions: call the Sanitation Department at 727-893-7398.

PSTA Minimizes Rider Occupancy and Time Schedule

Effective immediately, PSTA is allowing bus drivers to limit the number of riders on their bus to no more than 10 people at any given time, require patrons to use the rear door of the buses, and is planning to scale back overall service levels by approximately 40% starting Monday, March 30th, 2020.

"Usually we always thank people for choosing to ride transit," said Brad Miller, Chief Executive Officer of PSTA, "But of course, now everything has changed. I am hoping everyone practices social distancing and allows the buses to be used by only those who have no option but to use transit to get to essential work, medical appointments or the grocery store."

The transit agency has been taking steps for weeks to increase vehicle cleaning and operator safety but the plans announced Friday increase those efforts further and for the first time introduce overall service reductions.

Masks and gloves have been distributed to bus operators for the past two weeks and the operator safety shields installed on most buses have proven helpful in enforcing distancing between drivers and passengers. Last week, PSTA enhanced these efforts by suspended collection of fares at the bus's front door to reduce crowding and requiring patrons to use the bus's back door. Now, PSTA Bus operators have the discretion to limit the number of passengers on a bus to no more than 10 at any time and radio in requests for additional buses if needed to keep passengers separated. PSTA will station extra buses at peak boarding locations. These efforts will all reduce crowding and limit exposure to passengers and bus operators.

While PSTA already suspended certain transit services due to cancellations like its Spring Training baseball shuttles and Clearwater Beach Spring Break shuttle, starting Monday March 30th, 2020 until further notice, all transit services will be scaled back to a Saturday level of service. It equates to approximately a 40% reduction in weekday service. As more and more businesses close and travel is discouraged, this will increase the number of transit employees that can stay home by more than 100 while maintaining a vital transportation option for those who have no other option. **All services will end at 10 P.M.**

Visit the [PSTA](https://www.psta.org) website for more details.

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