



PCAC

PERMANENT CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA

2 Broadway, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10004
(212) 878-7087 mail@pcac.org

GERARD BRINGMANN CHAIR • MTA BOARD MEMBER • LIRRCC CHAIR
ANDREW ALBERT NYCTRC CHAIR • MTA BOARD MEMBER
RANDOLPH GLUCKSMAN MNRCC CHAIR • MTA BOARD MEMBER

LISA DAGLIAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LIAM BLANK ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
KARA GURL RESEARCH & COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE
JESSICA SPEZIO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

PCAC Statement Mask Up for the Holidays, Spread Joy, Not Germs December 9th

With winter and the threat of a “tripledemic” fast approaching, the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC) called on the MTA to go from telling riders that “Masks are Encouraged” to “Masks are Strongly Encouraged” in its communications materials and digital displays, to protect themselves and others. Their request comes on the heels of the CDC’s recent call encouraging people to wear masks to reduce the spread of COVID, the flu, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

PCAC, whose members represent riders on the Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North and subways, buses and Staten Island Rail, noted that the spread of these diseases is more prevalent in winter months, when more of us are indoors. While not recommending reinstatement of a mask mandate, PCAC noted that an increasing number of members of the public at both MTA Committee and Board meetings had spoken about the importance of masks in protecting against diseases, particularly for the immunocompromised.

“This holiday season, let’s spread joy – not germs,” said PCAC Executive Director Lisa Daglian. “While we’re seeing more and more riders voluntarily wearing masks, we’re asking the MTA to ramp up its messaging to strongly encourage even more masking onboard. Though there was no evidence that transit was a major driver of the spread of COVID, wearing masks onboard is a small but important step we can take to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the triple threat we’re facing this winter. We hope that mask mandates are a thing of the past, but recognize that there are many riders who are particularly susceptible to airborne illnesses like COVID, the flu, RSV, and the common cold. Masking up isn’t just a courtesy, it’s an everyday protection we can take for a happier—and healthier—holiday season.”