

# TARIFF

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The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Tariff

on

**RIDERSHIP RULES**

AND

**GUIDELINES**

Tariff Number 39

Effective February 4, 2022

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**I. FORWARD**

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**1. Application of the Tariff**

The rules stated herein are applicable to the transportation of passengers on the Metrorail and Metrobus systems of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority from one point to another within the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Zone which generally covers territories within the District of Columbia, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and part of Prince William, and the political subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia located within those counties, and the counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, and parts of Charles and Anne Arundel and political subdivisions of the State of Maryland located in said counties. For information regarding paratransit service in the above locations, please refer to the Customer Guide to MetroAccess available online at <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/>.

**2. Metro Transit Police**

The Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) was established by the authority of Congress in 1976. MTPD police officers have tri-state jurisdiction with responsibility for a variety of law enforcement and public safety functions in transit facilities throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. As the only tri-jurisdictional police agency in the country, MTPD police officers have jurisdiction and arrest powers throughout the 1,500 square mile Transit Zone that includes Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia for crimes that occur in or against Transit Authority facilities<sup>1</sup>.

Metro Transit Police officers are everywhere in the system on Metrobuses and trains, at stations, and in parking lots. To contact Metro Transit Police in an emergency dial 911 or 202-962-2121. Passengers may also contact Metro Transit Police in non-emergency circumstances by text message to 696873 or "MyMTPD."

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<sup>1</sup> WMATA Compact § 76 (2009).

## II. RIDERSHIP RULES

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### 1. Federal Mandates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an Order on January 29, 2021<sup>2</sup>, requiring the wearing of masks by travelers to prevent spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and federal law requires wearing a face mask on public transit. The TSA has extended the COVID-19 public transportation mask mandate through January 18, 2022. Metro operators must require all persons to wear masks when boarding, exiting and for the duration of travel. All passengers over the age of two (2) years must continuously wear a face mask when riding Metro unless such passenger has been issued a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the American Disabilities Act.

### 2. Mask Wearing

The CDC Order must be followed by all public transit operators and passengers while on transit property, including but not limited to buses, trains, subways, transit stations and bus stops. Metro riders must wear masks that cover both the mouth and nose when awaiting, boarding, traveling on, or entering/exiting transit vehicles and must also wear masks when entering or on the premises of a transportation property.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.transportation.gov/safety/mask-travel-guidance>

### III. SERVICE CHANGE OR INTERRUPTION

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#### 1. Schedule Changes

Metro reserves the right to change schedules of transit service without notice to the public, except as set forth in the Metro Compact and Board Policy Resolutions.

#### 2. Accidents and Delays

Metro will not be liable for delays caused by accidents, breakdowns, road or traffic conditions, severe weather, or other conditions beyond its control and provides no guarantee that passengers will arrive at or depart from any point at any specific time. Metro shall not be liable for a failure to provide service either from the point of origin or to any point en route due to conditions over which Metro has no control such as Acts of God, acts of terrorism or other violence or road conditions that make it inadvisable to operate service in the sole opinion of Metro. In such instances, Metro shall not be liable for damage for any reason whatsoever.

#### 3. Guaranteed Ride Home

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments sponsors Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH), a program that provides regular commuters of the Metro transit system with a free and reliable ride home in the event of an unexpected emergency. Metro passengers may take advantage of GRH up to four times per year to get home for unexpected emergencies such as a personal illness or a sick child. GRH can also be used for unscheduled overtime. GRH is designed to rescue commuters who are worried about how to get home when an emergency arises. Participation is free with registration at <https://www.wmata.com/service/guaranteed-ride-home.cfm> or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

## IV.

## PASSENGER CONDUCT

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### 1. Enforcement of Jurisdictional Laws

Metro shall apply and enforce the criminal codes and all public decency, and lewd/obscenity laws within the multi-jurisdictional transit region at all times on Metro property in compliance with the law of the jurisdiction where the property is located and where such criminal and public decency or lewd/obscenity acts occurs.

### 2. Unacceptable and Prohibited Conduct

Unacceptable conduct is any conduct that a reasonable person believes is disturbing the peace or quiet enjoyment of other Metro passengers. Jurisdictional codes<sup>3</sup> in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia make it unlawful for a person to refuse to leave a bus or rail transit car when ordered to do so by the bus or train operator or other authorized agent. To this end, Metro reserves the right to refuse to transport a person or persons exhibiting unacceptable or prohibited conduct while on Metro property.

The following conduct is prohibited on all Metro property:

- a. Failure to pay established fare;
- b. Failure to wear shoes or other appropriate protective footwear for the outer covering of feet;
- c. Failure to wear a mask or other face covering or personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with federal law;
- d. To vend, sell or attempt to sell any item, thing or device;
- e. Expectoration (spitting) in or upon any part of any Metro employee/operator, station, railcar, bus, or vehicle;
- f. Smoking or carrying a lighted or smoldering pipe, cigar, or cigarette within the paid area of any Metro station, at Metro-owned or Metro-controlled bus stops or bus bays, or within any railcar, bus, or vehicle;

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<sup>3</sup> DC Code § 35-216, §35-251 (2001); PG County, MD Code Sec. 20A-102 (2015); Montgomery Co., MD Code Sec. 54A-2 (1987); Alexandria, Va. Code §13-1-35 (1985); Fairfax Co. Va. Code Ann., § 85-1-3 (1985); Arlington Co Code Art. IV. §14.2-80 (2015).

Continuation of conduct prohibited on all Metro property:

- g. Standing in front of the yellow line marked on the forward end of the floor of any bus, or otherwise conduct oneself in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of the operator;
- h. Boarding any bus through the rear exit door, unless directed by a Metro employee or agent;
- i. Eating or consuming food or drink in or upon the paid area of the Metro stations, or aboard any railcar, bus, or vehicle;
- j. Discarding litter or trash in or upon any Metrorail station, railcar, bus, or vehicle;
- k. Playing any device or instrument except when the device is connected to anearphone which limits the sound to the individual user;
- l. Displaying signs that overtly communicate a personal or political position but passengers shall be permitted to carry signs in a manner which does not interfere with movement, safety, entry, exit, or convenience of other passengers; and
- m. Abusive behavior.

### **3. Abusive Behavior**

Abusive behavior is any action that physically or verbally attacks, harms, endangers or injures any person, including oneself, or causes willful damage to property of Metro or property of another passenger or employee/operator. Any person exhibiting abusive behavior shall be subject to ejection and suspension from Metro property. Legal action may be taken.

## V.

## PASSENGER CARRY-ONS

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### 1. Ordinary Items

Passengers may carry ordinary items such as hand baggage and instrument cases, tool cases, folding baby carriages, strollers, wheelchairs, or other small packages and objects that can be handled without inconvenience to other passengers. Bicycles, Segways, mobility devices and other automatic balancing wheeled conveyances may also be carried on under certain terms and conditions. See the applicable section of this Tariff for specific guidelines. Carry-on items and objects shall not interfere with entrance or exit, free use of the aisle, or the proper and safe operation of the vehicle. Passengers must remain with their possessions at all times. Unattended items and objects may be confiscated and/or destroyed for safety and security reasons.

### 2. Bicycles, Scooters and Skateboards

Recreational devices such as bicycles, scooters and skateboards are allowed on Metro as long as they are under the control of the operator. For the safety of the operator and Metro Customers these devices should never be operated in the station or on Metro.

#### **Metrorail:**

**Bicycles, scooters and skateboards** are welcome on Metrorail during all hours; however, we encourage bicyclists to be considerate of other customers and adhere to these rules when traveling with a bicycle. **None of these devices are allowed on crowded railcars.** Use good judgment and only board cars that can comfortably accommodate you and your device. The middle cars are usually the most crowded, so consider boarding the first or last car of the train.

Senior citizens and people with disabilities always have priority. You must make designated seating areas available if needed by another passenger. Use good judgment and only board cars that can comfortably accommodate you and your device. **Do not block aisles or doors of the train.** Do not ride these devices in stations, on platforms or on trains. While wheeling your bicycle, keep both wheels on the ground and the kickstand up. The middle cars are usually the most crowded, so consider boarding the first or last car of the train. When boarding the train, use the doors at either end of the railcar – not the center doors.

Bicycles may not be carried on escalators. Use elevators only.

**Metro reserves the right to disallow these devices during special events or other days where high ridership is expected.**

Metrobus:

You can transport your bicycle free aboard Metrobus in quality, heavy-duty racks attached to the front of each bus. Folded bicycles are allowed aboard Metrobus as long as they remain folded and inside a sturdy (e.g. nylon, canvas, leather) carrying case or bag.

For safety, buses have special mirrors that allow bus operators to see the bicycle racks and riders loading bicycles. There is no additional fee for riders to bring their bicycles on a bus.

For more bike policy details see our [Bikes on Metrobus](#) page.

Bicycles that are non-collapsible, conventional bicycles, as well as tandem, electric-powered, or folded/collapsible bicycles that measure no longer than 80 inches, no higher than 48 inches, and no wider than 22 inches may be carried on Metrorail and Metrobus and placed in the external bike rack of Metrobus. Motorcycles, mopeds, tricycles, motor-powered bicycles (including but not limited to gasoline-powered bicycles), and any other bicycle that exceeds the size restrictions are prohibited.

Anyone under the age of 16 with a bicycle in the Metrorail system shall be accompanied by an adult (a person over the age of 18). An adult shall accompany only one child with a bicycle at a time. At all times, Metro Station Managers and Metro Transit Police may exercise discretion to temporarily deny bicyclists access to rail station mezzanines and platforms during periods of passenger congestion until the congestion is cleared. Passengers are responsible for their recreational devices and are also liable for any injuries, losses and/or damages resulting from their bicycles in station areas, aboard Metrorail trains or on Metrobuses.

While in the Metrorail system with recreational devices, passengers must observe the following rules of the Metrorail system:

- a. Pay the appropriate fare;
- b. Yield to regular pedestrian traffic;
- c. Enter and exit the system through the extra-wide gates;
- d. Use the elevators to access mezzanines and platforms;
- e. Remain in control of the device at all times;

- f. Enter rail cars through the end doors. There is a limit of four bicycles per railcar, two at each end of a railcar;
- g. Passengers shall not ride their devices within the station or paid area; and
- h. Passengers shall remove all baggage, backpacks, pouches, baskets or similar storage items from bicycles.

Folded bicycles are permitted inside railcars at all times.

Passengers can transport bicycles as defined herein aboard Metrobus in quality, heavy-duty racks attached to the front of each bus free of charge. Up to two bicycles can be stored in each rack, which cyclists can easily load and unload themselves by following the simple instructions affixed to the racks. The racks also have a locking mechanism to prevent bicycles from coming loose. All bicycles, excluding properly enclosed folded or disassembled bicycles, shall not be transported inside Metrobuses at any time.

During emergency evacuation of a Metrobus, bicycles must be left in the bike rack unless permitted by the Metrobus Operator, Metro Transit Police Officer or city/county police or fire officials. Metro assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged bicycles.

#### **A. Bicycle Racks**

Metro operates approximately 2,400 bicycle racks, and is replacing some racks with new smart, self-locking racks that are available for bicycle parking at Metrorail parking facilities. Bicycles must be removed within one hour of station closing. Bicycles that are locked to other objects around Metro stations shall be removed without notification.

#### **B. Bicycle Lockers**

Bicycle lockers at Metrorail stations safeguard bicycles from theft, vandalism, and inclement weather. The lockers are designed to hold one bicycle each as well as bicycle gear. Each locker has a unique lock and key. The space inside is approximately: 4 feet high by 6 feet 5 inches deep by 3 feet wide at the door and narrows toward the back of the locker. Most standard bicycles will fit inside. Longer bicycles such as tandem bikes and recumbent bikes may not fit into the lockers, however, there is limited availability of special sized lockers. Metro is replacing all older lockers with new self-locking bike lockers that are available for bicycle parking at Metrorail parking facilities. A mobile phone App or a SmarTrip card that must be registered online at <https://www.wmata.com/service/bikes/bike-and-ride.cfm> will be required to use Metro Smart Bike Lockers.

Bicycle locker rental is available on an hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly basis and rates may vary by station. Payment is accepted with SmarTrip® cards and most major credit cards.

#### **C. Bike & Ride Facilities**

Bike and Ride facilities provide secured, shared bicycle storage rooms with numerous bicycle racks for free bicycle parking and storage. The Bike and Ride facilities are located on ground levels at Metrorail stations or on the first level of parking garages. A SmarTrip card must be registered online at [wmata.com](http://wmata.com) to use Metro Bike & Ride facilities. Registration provides access to all Metro Bike & Ride facilities after the receipt of an email confirmation which generally takes 24-48 hours. After receiving confirmation, simply tap the SmarTrip® card to enter any Metro Bike & Ride facility. Currently, facilities are located at College Park-U of Md, Vienna and East Falls Church Metrorail stations. Metro Bike & Ride facilities are planned at more stations.

Patrons also are encouraged to register bicycles with Metro Transit Police (MTPD) and to use a bike lock to further secure bicycles parked in Bike & Ride Facilities. MTPD can assist in the identification and recovery of lost or stolen bicycles that have been registered. Free and easy registration can be completed online at [wmata.com](http://wmata.com)

#### **D. Automatic Balancing Wheeled Conveyance**

Passengers may carry on certain automatic balancing wheeled conveyances (ABWCs), including Segways that have a footprint no greater than 19 x 25 feet during off peak times subject to MTPD's discretion to temporarily deny ABWC users access to station mezzanines and platforms during periods of passenger congestion. Anyone under the age of 16 with an ABWC into the Metrorail system must be accompanied by an adult (a person over the age of 18). An adult shall accompany only one child with an ABWC at a time. ABWC users are responsible for their own ABWC and all actions, injuries, losses and/or damages resulting from the ABWC in station areas and aboard trains. Generally, ABWCs are not permitted on Metrobus, except by persons with disabilities who have registered an ABWC as mobility device.

The ABWC shall not be powered on or operated within the Metrorail system unless it is a registered mobility device. All unregistered ABWCs shall be pushed or pulled by the person

inside the Metrorail system ABWCs are not allowed on escalators and ABWC owners must obey the following rules:

- a. Pay the appropriate fare;
- ~~a.~~ Yield to pedestrian traffic;
- ~~b.~~a. Enter and exit the system through the extra-wide gates;
- ~~c.~~b. Use the elevators to access mezzanines and platforms;
- ~~d.~~c. Remain in control of their ABWC at all times;
- ~~e.~~d. Enter rail cars through the end doors;
- ~~f.~~e. Limit of four ABWCs per railcar, two at each end without blocking the aisles;
- ~~g.~~f. Wait for trains as far away from the granite edge as possible; and
- ~~h.~~g. Shall leave the device on the train or in the station in an emergency that requires evacuation.

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### 3. Carriage of Small Animals

Small animals may be carried free of charge, provided they are securely enclosed in a kennel, cage, box or other container sufficiently small enough to be carried without danger or offense to other passengers. Such containers may not occupy seats on Metrobus and Metrorail vehicles to exclude other passengers.

### 4. Prohibited Carry-Ons

Passengers are prohibited from bringing any flammable or combustible liquids, explosives, acids, or any other inherently dangerous item within a Metro station or upon any railcar, bus or vehicle. Live animals must be caged unless they are ADA approved service animals.

## VI.

## ESCALATORS

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### 1. Tampering with Escalators

It is unlawful for any person to stop, impede, interfere with or tamper with an escalator or elevator or any part of an escalator or elevator apparatus or to use an escalator or elevator emergency stop button, unless this action is taken by a person with the knowledge or with a reasonable, good faith belief that an emergency makes the action necessary to preserve or protect human life or property or unless such action is taken by a Metro employee or emergency response personnel or Metro contractor acting pursuant to their official duties.

### 2. Safety of Escalators

Passengers on escalators should face forward and hold the handrail at all times while riding the escalators. Feet should be kept away from the sides of the escalators and any dangling clothing or loose shoelaces or buckles on shoes should be tied or fastened to avoid getting caught in the escalator. Running, sitting, wheelchairs, bicycles and other wheeled devices on escalators are strictly prohibited.

### 3. Children on Escalators

Only folded strollers are allowed on the escalator. If stroller is occupied, the elevator must be used. There is no safe way to carry an infant in a stroller on the escalator. If the elevator is out of service, carry the infant in your arms and fold the stroller. Hold small children's hands at all times while on the escalator. Children are not permitted to sit on the escalator.

## VII.

## SENIOR OR DISABLED PASSENGERS

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### 1. Priority Seating & Use of Elevators

Seats next to the doors on Metrorail and Metrobus are reserved for senior citizens and passengers with disabilities. Seniors and disabled passengers also receive priority entrance into elevators. For information regarding paratransit service, including eligibility requirements for paratransit service, please refer to the Customer Guide to MetroAccess available online at <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/>.

### 2. Medicare Recipients

49 USC Section 5307 (d) (1) (D), as amended, provides that reduced fare shall be given to any person under the age of 65 years upon presenting a valid Medicare card duly issued to that person pursuant to Title II or Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. Regardless of age, any person who presents a valid Medicare card and photo ID will be issued a Disability ID/SmarTrip® card, and shall be entitled to pay the senior/disabled fare on Metrorail and Metrobus through the Metro Reduced Fare Program. Passengers may also display a government issued photo ID and show their Medicare card to pay the discounted rate of senior/disabled fare upon boarding any Metrobus.

Disability ID/SmarTrip® cards are issued on the same day if you meet the eligibility criteria and on a walk in basis at the Metro Transit Accessibility Center located at 600 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC. The Disability ID/SmarTrip® card will entitle a passenger to pay half the peak fare on Metrorail and discount rates for Metrobus routes and other regional bus services. See the *Metro Tariff on Fares and Service* for additional information on discount fare rates.

### 3. Disabled Veterans

Disabled veterans who have been granted a 60% or greater disability rating by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) who present the original disability award letter from the VA to the Office of Eligibility Certification and Outreach will automatically qualify for a Disability ID/SmarTrip® card and shall be entitled to reduced fares. Veterans who have been granted a 100% disability rating from the VA may also show the DD Form 2765 Department of Defense/Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card to receive the Disability ID/SmarTrip® card.

Disabled veterans may obtain additional information and access applications online at <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/>. The Metro Transit

Accessibility Center located at 600 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC provides walk in assistance on Monday, Wednesday-Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8:15 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. To reach the Metro Transit Accessibility Center by phone, call 202-962-2700 and select option 1 or TTY 202-962-2033.

#### **4. Personal Care Assistant**

“Assistant Eligible” may be marked on the passenger’s Disability ID/SmarTrip® card. This designation allows a personal care assistant (PCA) to accompany the eligible disabled passenger on Metrobus or Metrorail at reduced fare. This PCA will be permitted to pay the reduced rate only when accompanying the eligible customer. One PCA SmarTrip® card will be issued to the eligible Reduced Fare Customer. The necessity for PCA will be certified by Metro. Metro reserves the right to verify information provided by applicants, including contacting certifying health care professionals and/or the review of applications by Metro staff physicians.

Additional information regarding PCA eligibility can be obtained online at <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/>. The Metro Transit Accessibility Center is located at 600 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC and provides walk in assistance on Monday, Wednesday-Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8:15 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. To reach the Metro Transit Accessibility Center by phone, call 202-962-2700 and select option 1 or TTY 202-962-2033.

#### **5. Mobility Devices**

ABWCs utilized by persons with disabilities are exempt from the general rules applicable to passenger carry-ons when the ABWC is registered as a mobility device. In order to register as a mobility device, criteria must be met as follows:

- a. The ABWC operator must be approved for the Senior/Disabled Fare Program or the MetroAccess Program;
- b. The ABWC operator must provide certification from a doctor on a form approved by Metro that the person uses an ABWC as a mobility device;
- c. The ABWC operator must participate in orientation conducted by Metro on ABWC operation within the Metrorail system;
- d. The ABWC operator must be registered with Metro and display a registration decal on the ABWC at all times during its use in the Metrorail system; and
- e. The ABWC operator shall not operate at a pace faster than a normal walking speed within the Metrorail system.

## 6. Service Animals

Trained service animals used by persons with disabilities are permitted on all Metrorail and Metrobus vehicles. Service animals include but are not limited to dogs and miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities. Exotic animals are not considered service animals under the ADA. Comfort or therapy animals, which are used solely to provide emotional support, are also not considered service animals under the ADA. Pets, exotic animals or emotional support animals are not permitted on Metrorail or Metrobus without the animal enclosed in a carrier.

Miniature horses performing as service animals must meet the following criteria:

- a. Generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders;
- b. Generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds;
- c. Must be housebroken;
- d. Must be under the owner's control;
- e. The vehicle has room to accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight;  
and
- f. The horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations.

In circumstances where it may not be obvious that a particular animal is a trained service animal, Metro staff may ask the individual with the animal if it is a service animal. Metro will not request written assurances before permitting the service animal to accompany the person with the disability. Service animals are not allowed to ride on seats in Metrobus and Metrorail vehicles.

## VIII.

## LOST AND FOUND

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### 1. Wallets and Electronic Devices

Metro provides Lost and Found service for wallets and electronic devices only. Please note, if your item is found, it may take up to five business days to reach the Metro Lost & Found department. The Lost and Found office is located at **6505 Belcrest Road, Suite 500 Hyattsville, MD 20782** and operates during the hours of 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. In accordance with federal law, masks are required for in-person inquiries or pick up of items.

### 2. Report a Lost Item

There are two ways to report an item lost within the Metrorail or Metrobus systems:

#### Online

For items lost within the Metrorail or Metrobus system, the online Lost & Found form is the easiest and most efficient way to report lost items. Information of lost items submitted online will be entered into our tracking system for processing and accessible to Lost & Found personnel. Within 30 minutes, you will receive a confirmation email with a case number.

#### Phone

Lost items may be reported by phone at 202-962-1195 during the following hours: Monday-Friday 9 am - 5 pm, excluding federal holidays. A customer service representative will record your information and provide a case number for the item(s) reported lost. Please reference your case number in all communications regarding your lost item. A Lost & Found customer service representative will search the system for matching found items. If a match is found, you will be contacted by email or phone to verify your item.