

Tulare County Media Contact: Carrie Monteiro, Public Information Officer Contact: (559) 624-8007, <u>CMonteiro1@tularecounty.ca.gov</u> Date: March 15, 2021

## FREE Bus Rides to COVID Vaccinations in Tulare County

Riders must show proof of a confirmation to a vaccination appointment, and all bus transfers necessary are included.

Public transportation agencies and transit organizations are helping to get the people of Tulare County vaccinated against COVID-19 by providing free bus rides to those in need of transportation to their vaccination appointments.

Beginning March 16, Tulare County transit services will begin offering free bus rides on existing bus routes to COVID-19 vaccination appointments for residents and workers throughout Tulare County. This free service is being offered by not only Tulare County Area Transit buses but also includes City transit services in Visalia, Porterville, Tulare, and Dinuba. Passengers going to their vaccination appointment must let the bus operator know as soon as they board and show proof of a vaccination appointment confirmation for that day. Riders can present their confirmations on their cell phones or bring a printout of the vaccination appointment confirmation.

Giving free bus rides supports the County's goals in getting Tulare County residents and workforce vaccinated as soon as possible and making sure vaccinations are accessible and equitable for everyone, including those who live in rural Tulare County. This free service is available on over 35 various bus routes on both County and City transit lines and includes all transfers necessary to get people to their final destination to get vaccinated. These no-cost bus rides are provided for rides both to and from your vaccination appointment. This does not apply to Dial-A-Ride services, only fixed bus routes in the county.

Riders must adhere to the safety protocols of face masks and social distancing requirements on public transit buses.

After securing your vaccination appointment, officials urge residents to use the TCaT Trip Planner application at <u>www.RideTCaT.org</u> to plan your trip, or call The Green Line at 1-877-404-6473 for assistance over the phone.

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