Statement on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

OPTA Ohio Needs Transit Conference & OPTA Expo 2020 Is Cancelled
Updated March 16, 2020

Over the last week, our Ohio public transit systems, State of Ohio and the entire country have been handling a dynamic and escalating public crisis like one we have never experienced before. The coronavirus is now classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

On March 12, Governor DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Acton issued an order that prohibits all public gatherings of 100 or more persons. On March 15, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a statement that for the “next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States.” This covers until May 10, 2020, well beyond the date of OPTA’s Conference & Expo.

Coronavirus cases are multiplying around Ohio due to community spread. Social distancing is being required by international, national and state medical resources. This action by state and federal leaders, as well as the growing risks from the coronavirus pandemic, means that the conference cannot go on.

These events are outside of OPTA’s control; and, therefore we regret to inform our participants and partners that the Conference and Expo 2020 is cancelled. We thank all of our Conference and Expo participants for their patience, flexibility and support at this time.

OPTA will be refunding all conference and exhibitor registrations within the next 45 days. We will be reaching out to our conference partners to discuss next steps and arrangements. If you have questions, please contact OPTA at financial@ohioneedstransit.org.

We understand that the Conference and Expo is an important and popular event for professional education and networking among the transit industry. OPTA hopes to be able to offer these opportunities later this year.

In the meantime, OPTA urges its members and partners to help minimize the spread of the coronavirus in Ohio by following the recommended advice of the CDC and Ohio Department of Health. The OPTA Member Resource website is also available to support our transit systems as they navigate a new type of normal. Be safe and we look forward to our future efforts together to support public transportation in Ohio.

For more information, visit:
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Ohio Department of Health