

Thermal screening, social distancing, mandatory masks: Noida Metro's guidelines for commuters

Noida Metro is waiting for instructions from the Centre and UP government to resume operations on the Aqua Line.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Passengers will be scanned at concourse level of stations
- Commuters will be required to maintain social distance inside trains
- Trains will not stop at stations with large crowds

Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) is gearing up to resume operations awaiting a nod from the Centre and Uttar Pradesh government. The authority has drafted an SOP to be followed by commuters. The guidelines include the following:

Managing Director (MD), Noida Metro and CEO, Noida Authority, Ritu Maheshwari said, "In this regard, NMRC is making necessary preparations at all its stations and inside the trains to ensure that all passengers of the Aqua Line follow the guidelines laid down by the Government for prevention of the Covid-19 infection."

"The main objective of NMRC is to provide essential mobility services post lockdown, as per the government's decision, with all specified safety measures and precautions to safeguard against spread of Covid-19", Ritu Maheshwari added. She also stated that trains and station areas were being regularly sanitized during the lockdown period.

Here are the measures that will be enforced on the Aqua Line:

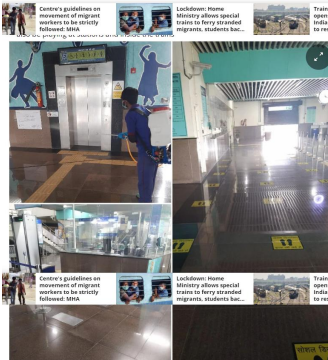
Frequency of trains

- Initially, for a few days, 15-minute frequency of trains will be maintained throughout the week (Monday to Sunday)
- Trend of ridership will be analyzed and any changes in frequency will be made as per the



Sanitisation of trains, stations

- The metro authority will carry out intensive cleaning and sanitization of station areas (public area, operational rooms, toilets, grab handles) and the trains (poles, seats, doors, floor, PECU, glasses) each night during non-revenue hours and at the depot station after each round trip
- Passenger contact areas such as call buttons of elevators, AFC gates, handle belts of escalators and staircases, POS machines etc. at stations will be sanitized every two hours
- Passenger screening team at concourse level will screen passengers before they reach the frisking area (thermal sensors; limiting temperature will be 37.7 degree)
- Masks will be made available at stations in case of urgent requirement
- Sanitizers will be provided at concourse level, at the TOM Counter and at the EFO after use of the POS Machine
- Soap solution will be made available in washrooms
- All elevators will be closed (except for senior citizens and physically challenged passengers with a maximum capacity of 3 persons per lift at one time, passengers will stand facing the wall panels of the lift to prevent face to face interaction)
- Passengers will be advised regularly to refrain from touching any surface inside the metro stations or trains



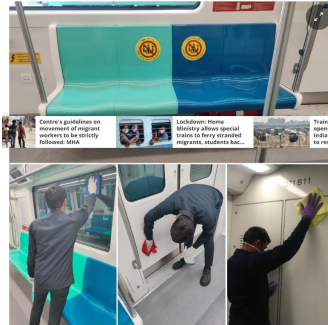
Aqua Line Stations (Photo Credits: Bhupinder Chaudhary)

Entry/Exit at stations

- Only one gate will be kept open for entry/exit at certain stations (Sector-101, Sector-81, NSEZ, Sector-83, Sector-137, Sector-142, Sector-143, Sector-144, Sector-145, Sector-146, Sector-147, Sector-148, Alpha-1, Delta-1 and NANDA office)
- Both entrance gates will be kept open for commuters at six stations on the Aqua Line (Sector-51, Sector-50, Sector-76, KP-II, Pari Chowk, Depot Station)

Guidelines for stations

- To ensure adequate social distance, passengers will be advised to stand in a queue at designated spaces by visible marking at 1 m spacing, at frisking zone, TOM counters, platforms and inside the train.
- Commuter will have to maintain at least 10 mm gap between AFC sensor and smart card/QR
- Use of POS (Use of smart card (OCOC)/ NMRC App instead of QR codes will be encouraged)
- In case of any doubt regarding any person having the novel coronavirus infection/symptoms, the suspected person will not be allowed entry inside station premises and will be given proper instructions to seek further medical assistance.
- To handle a suspected passenger or baggage, two Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suits at each station will be made available for the concerned staff deployed at the station
- Sufficient number of security personnel with their supporting staff will be deployed at every station to ensure prescribed social distancing and proper crowd management
- Spitting is prohibited and a fine of Rs 500 for the first offence and Rs 1,000 for subsequent offences will be levied



Aqua Line Stations (Photo Credits: Bhupinder Chaudhary)

Guidelines for trains

- Passengers will not be allowed to sit on marked seats
- Passengers will not be allowed to board the train while maintaining adequate distance thereafter and board the train while maintaining adequate distance
- Crowds inside the trains as well as at stations/platforms will be monitored through CCTV from OCC by controllers/official on special duty (if large crowds are observed, entry at the station will be restricted by the screening team)
- In case of emergency, stoppage at the stations, having large crowds may be skipped (announcements about the same will be made inside the trains by train operators and at the stations by station controllers)