The upcoming season will see changes for the Sugarloaf Explorer system. In an effort to keep our operators safe and provide safe transit for our riders while abiding by Federal and State guidelines for transit we are implementing new protocols. In “Normal” years, during Peak Hours, we had a capacity of 30 passengers on our new buses. This includes 24 seated riders and 6 standees.

In the age of “COVID” there will be significant changes to Explorer operations this season. CDC Guidelines require that we limit capacity to accommodate social distancing. Buses will be limited to 50% of seated capacity (24 passenger bus = 12), masks must be worn by all passengers and high contact areas must be wiped down after every run. The buses must also be disinfected at the end of the shift. To allow time for the buses to be cleaned, we will be unable to operate the 20 minute schedule during morning peak time. This further reduces capacity.

To try to offset some of the reduction of capacity, we will be adding an additional 5 buses on Weekends and Holidays, this will bring the number of buses up to 15, as well as increasing the number of buses during the week from 5 to 6. We are also extending our Weekend / Holiday hours. The new hours will be 7:15 – 6:00pm to try to ensure everyone has a chance to get to the mountain and home. However, there will be trade-offs. We will **not** be providing any evening service this season. All of our evening resources will be reassigned to the daytime to accommodate skiers with as little delay as possible and to provide sufficient resources for disinfecting the buses for the next day. We are obligated to adhere to the CDC Protocols for public transit. The risk of being out of compliance is simply too high.

A few notes:

* + Capacity will be indicated on each bus.
  + Masks must be worn while on the bus.
  + High contact areas on the bus will be cleaned after each run.
  + Seats will be designated to maintain social distancing.
  + When dropping off, passengers will be prohibited from boarding until the bus is cleaned.
  + Families with small children may ride together.
  + When boarding the bus, please load from back to front. When exiting, unload from front to back to minimize contact with other passengers.
  + Be sure you have the latest schedule. **There have been significant changes.**
  + Follow us on Twitter for up to date information **@SugarloafBus**.

**ALL PICKUPS AND DROPOFFS WILL BE IN PARKING LOT “A” ADJACENT TO THE HOTEL**

This is based on the latest information. If there are any changes, we will let you know as soon as possible. We all have been living with this for the past 6 months and nothing here should come as a surprise. Be assured, we will adjust and adapt as conditions allow to be as efficient as possible. With a little patience we’ll all get through this.

**Western Maine Transportation and Sugarloaf Explorer follow all CDC Guidelines**