



May 19, 2020

Sarah Feinberg
Interim President
MTA- New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear President Feinberg,

We hope this letter finds you and your staff well in these uncertain and challenging times. We write to request that in addition to all of the tremendous initiatives the MTA has undertaken to date to protect New Yorkers from the spread of COVID-19, your agency consider offering straphangers the option to purchase face masks in subway stations. All purchasing options should be looked at, but we feel one simple option could utilize the CVS vending machines already in some subway stations.

The MTA's requirement that passengers wear face masks in order to use the agency's transit services can reduce the likelihood of transmission. Increasing the number of purchasing options in stations will help ensure that riders follow the rules and protect themselves and others.

Transit agencies around the world, including in Berlin, have utilized vending machines in order to provide face masks to passengers easily and seamlessly. The MTA should follow suit, and expand the number of vending machines in subway stations after reviewing the program's initial, and likely, success.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to address the needs of New Yorkers during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gale A. Brewer in black ink.

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

Handwritten signature of Ben Kallos in blue ink.

Ben Kallos
NYC Council Member

cc: Patrick Foye, Chairman and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority