

Metro trains back on track after 5 months

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Chennai: On Monday, when metro trains resume after five months, commuters can walk to the platform by simply tapping the ticket on their phone on a scanner, like at the airport. CMRL has launched QR code mobile ticketing option that will allow contactless travel and prevent spread of to curb the spread of Covid-19. Metro trains will operate from 8am to 8pm with trains available every five minutes during peak hours (8.30am to 10.30am and from 5pm to 8pm) and every 10 minutes during non-peak hours across both the corridors, with train stoppage increased to 50 seconds from 20 second at all stations, to facilitate passengers maintain distance and travel safely.

No inter-corridor service between Central Metro and Airport via Poonamallee High Road-Koyambedu and Alandur will be available. Metro rail services were closed in March following the nationwide-lockdown.



C Suresh Kumar

SAFETY FIRST: CMRL is implementing a number of safety measures as services resume on Monday. These include regular disinfection of trains and stations and contactless ticketing options

CMRL officials said passengers can purchase tickets via the CMRL app following which they would receive a QR code on their phone. They can simply tap their phone displaying the code against a scanner at the automatic fare collection gate on the concourse or ticketing level and board the train. "All stations have one AFC gate with a

reader for QR code," an official said.

This move is in addition to existing smartcards, which also give commuters contactless ticketing options and reduce time spent at the ticket counter.

"Travel card reader machines will be installed at all 32 stations to avoid queuing at metro stations for recharge, ex-

tension of validity of smart-cards," a CMRL release said, adding that single journey tokens are discouraged, but will be issued on need basis and will be sanitized.

As for the train timings, CMRL said it will be changed based on the requirement in a gradual manner. Other safety measures CMRL is implementing include regular disinfection of stations and trains, deployment of staff to control crowds and ensure social distancing during boarding and deboarding trains, protective gear for staff, social distancing markers at stations including elevators, contactless frisking passengers, hand sanitizer dispensers and thermal scanning for all passengers. Air conditioning systems in trains and stations will be operated as per CPWD/Ishrae (Indian Society for Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning) protocol.

Passengers are expected to wear masks at all times, use Aarogya Setu app, sanitize their hands and maintain physical distance.