

Student Safety Tips



New York City Police Department strategies have cut crime dramatically since 1993, making New York one of the safest large cities in the nation. The following are safety tips provided by the NYPD and the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police.

- ▶ Carry your wallet in an inside jacket pocket or side trouser pocket, never in the rear pocket.
 - ▶ Carry pocketbooks in the bend of your elbow, held close to your body. If there is a long strap, wrap it around the bag.
 - ▶ Carry credit cards and cash in your pockets.
 - ▶ Keep pocketbooks on your lap when dining out, not dangling over the back of a chair.
 - ▶ Avoid placing pocketbooks on hooks on the back of a fitting room or bathroom door, where someone can easily reach over and removed them.
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- ▶ If you choose to use a car service, contact a specific company directly. Never enter an unsolicited "car service" vehicle offering to take you to your destination. Yellow medallion taxis are the only vehicles permitted to pick up fares on the street.
 - ▶ When driving, plan your trip in advance and carry a map. Travel on well-lighted, populated roadways whenever possible and keep the doors of the vehicle locked. Be wary of other motorists warning you of a mechanical problem or flat tire. This may be a ruse to get you to stop the vehicle. Most of all be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times to ensure that you aren't being followed. If you have a cellular phone carry it with you.
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- ▶ Remember that no one will offer you something for nothing, so be aware of "con artists" and pick pockets. Some of the "scams" to be aware of:

Someone helping to "clean off" mustard or ketchup that has been squirted on your jacket as a distraction to remove your wallet or other valuable items.

Theater, music and sporting event tickets sold on street corners that may be counterfeit.

Three Card Monte sidewalk games that are "rigged" to make you lose and are illegal to play.

Persons pointing to money, that you have supposedly dropped, who take your briefcase or bags when you bend down to pick up the money.

Preventing a Purse Snatch:

DO NOT....

carry a bag that makes you a target. A bag that dangles from the shoulder can be easily yanked off your shoulder by someone coming up from behind.

DO NOT....

carry your bag in such a manner that you can't let it go if you have to. Many women have been injured because their own bags acted as handcuffs as a purse snatcher yanked it away.

DO....

be aware of your surroundings and carry your bag close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow.

DO....

minimize the amount of money and credit cards that you carry with you on a daily basis. Divide your money between pockets and bags.

IF...

you are the victim of a purse snatch do not fight to hold onto your bag, especially if there is a weapon involved

Should you become the victim of a crime remember the following:

Remain as calm as possible. Don't make any quick or sudden movements. Many times the criminal is as nervous as yourself.

Don't be a hero. No amount of money or property is worth your life.

Be observant. Try to remember as much as possible about the criminal: sex, age, race, clothing, height, weight, etc..

Call the police via "911" immediately after the incident. Follow the instructions of the "911" operator and provide all the necessary information.

Subway Safety

Most subway accidents result from slips, trips, and falls on stairways when someone is in a rush. The best safety advice we can give you is: slow down when you are on the stairs, and hold the handrail.

On Platforms

Some trains are shorter (have fewer cars) when it's not rush hour because there are fewer passengers using the subway. Some short trains operate without a conductor. On those trains, the train operator opens and closes the doors, makes station announcements, and assists customers, if needed. Consider waiting at the center of the platform at these times. At most stations, there are signs that read: During Off-Hours, Trains Stop Here. If you stand near the center of the platform near the sign, you won't have to rush when the train arrives.

While you're waiting, please stand behind the yellow protective strip, away from the platform edge. No matter what situation arises, keep off the tracks. Tracks contain 600 volts of live electricity. If you drop something on the tracks, go to the station booth and tell the agent.

In Subway Cars

You risk serious injury if you ride on top of the train (surfing) or ride holding onto outside doors (skylarking). It's also against the law.

Boarding between subway cars may seem like a time-saver, but it is highly dangerous. It's also dangerous to try to keep subway doors from closing when you are entering or exiting the train. They are not like elevator doors and will not reopen automatically. In addition, make sure that pocketbooks, knapsacks, clothing, packages, umbrellas, and other personal items are clear of the closing doors. When you're inside a moving train, never ride between cars or lean against doors. When you are standing, always hold on.

Using the Emergency Cord

Use the emergency cord only to prevent an accident or injury. For example, if someone gets caught between closing subway car doors and is being dragged, pull the cord. But if your train is between stations and someone aboard becomes ill, do not pull the emergency cord. The train will stop, preventing medical professionals from reaching the sick passenger. A sick person is better off if the train goes to the nearest station where police and medical services will be waiting or can be quickly summoned, without interruption.

Subway and Bus Security

As a general precaution, whether you're in the subway, the bus, or even in the street, appear confident. Always look as if you know where you're going, and you're better off not displaying money in public.

Officers in 12 Transportation Bureau Police districts are responsible for keeping subway stations safe. On the streets, a special police unit responds to bus crimes throughout New York City. Undercover officers travel on bus routes to stop problems as they occur. And, if you're alert and aware, you can make your subway and bus trips even more secure.

Off-Hours Waiting Areas

Avoid standing at the end of subway platforms or on an empty platform. Instead, wait in the Off-Hours Waiting Area, particularly at night. Most stations have one, generally located on the mezzanine level, near a station booth. Speak to the station agent or other NYC Transit employees (who wear bright orange vests) if you have a problem. Use a Customer assistance intercom (mounted on a platform column) to get help in a station where you're not visible to the station agent. When you speak into the Customer assistance intercom, the agent can speak with you. You can also use a public phone on the mezzanine or platform to dial 911 (the police) if you need help. This call is free. Each station booth posts the district and phone number of the NYPD unit that patrols the station. When it's not an emergency, use this number to contact the police. Electronic signs in many Off-Hours Waiting Areas indicate when a train is approaching the station. If you wait near the sign, you will have enough time to walk to the platform as the train arrives.



Protect Yourself Against Pickpockets

Stay awake. A pickpocket's easiest victim is a sleeping passenger. If you feel drowsy, it's best to get up and stand, or take another seat. When you find yourself alone in an empty subway car, move to a car that has a conductor (usually in the center of the train), a train operator (front car), or other riders. Being alert and staying in a subway car with other people are always good precautions.

Although pickpockets often target people who are alone and asleep, they know how to operate in crowds as well. That's why you should be wary of being pushed or bumped. But even when there aren't many people around you on a bus or in the subway, never keep your wallet or money in a back pocket, and keep all bags, backpacks, and pocketbooks securely closed. Overlooking these things can make you an easy target. Keep alert if you see or hear a commotion. It could be a pickpocket's trick to divert your attention. And speaking of remaining alert, be extra cautious if you use headsets. They tend to reduce your awareness. If your pocket is picked while you're on a bus, call out to the bus operator immediately. He or she can request police assistance.

Taking Your Bicycle on the Subway

1. Enter and exit through station service gate.
Swipe your MetroCard, turn the turnstile and enter through the service gate.

Do not try to lift your bicycle over the turnstile.

Do not carry your bicycle through one of the tall entrances or exits with high steel bars.

If you get off at a station where there is only a tall exit with high steel bars, wait for the next train and go to the nearest station that permits easy exit with a bike. High Entrance Turnstile - Don't try to get your bike through here.

2. Board train after passengers exit. This reduces the chance of someone tripping over your bicycle. It also allows you to see if the train is too crowded.
3. Stand near either end of the subway car. Never put your bicycle where it blocks the aisle or doors - you'll create an obstacle. If the only available space is near the door, the train is too crowded. Wait for the next uncrowded train.
4. Stand by your bicycle. Move your bicycle to allow others to pass. If there is a train or station evacuation, you must leave your bicycle behind to ensure a swift and safe exit for all. Make sure all items on the bicycle are secured.
5. Carry your bicycle on staircases. Wait until the staircase is not crowded. Carry your bicycle. And don't bump it on the stairs, because you could lose control.
6. Follow instructions from New York City Police, station and train personnel. To ensure everybody's safety, New York City Police and subway personnel may decide your bicycle is causing a hazardous situation, obstructing passenger movement or interfering with train operations. Be prepared to follow their directions.
7. Courtesy + common sense = bicycle safety. Consideration for others along with reasonable judgment help produce a safer, more comfortable environment for everyone, including bicyclists.

We can all breathe easier.

Night Life Safety Tips

Do not accept drinks from anyone if you did not see them prepared.

Do not leave your drink unattended for any period of time.

Always inform a family member or friend of your whereabouts.

When entering a bar or club, always know where emergency exits are located in case of a fire or other emergencies.

Be familiar with your surroundings (street names, landmarks, etc.) this specific information will be needed to locate you.

Do not drink and drive or accept a ride from anyone who has been drinking. Designate a driver who will not drink.

Do not leave your bag unattended.

Arrange a buddy system with a friend and always watch after each other.

Never leave a bar or club with a stranger.

Carry a cell phone. When possible, call 911 if you are being harassed.

Always carry enough money for a taxi.
FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911

Remember; you must be over 21 to drink

IN NEW YORK IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HAVE OR PRESENT FALSE OR FORGED IDENTIFICATION