



Nov 19, 2020 10:15 GMT

## Reduced train service between Leamington Spa and Nuneaton due to impact of Covid-19

Passengers using West Midlands Railway services between Leamington Spa and Nuneaton are being advised to allow extra time for their journeys due to the impact of Covid-19 meaning fewer trains are able to run on the route.

From tomorrow (Friday 20 November), the weekday service between the Warwickshire towns will reduce from one train per hour to one train every two hours. Rail replacement transport will operate to replace the trains which are unable to run.

The enforced temporary change has been made following an increase in the number of train crew unable to work due to the impact of Covid-19. The new frequency will remain in place until such time as staff levels stabilise.

Jonny Wiseman, customer experience director for West Midlands Railway, said: "Since the start of the pandemic one in three of our staff have been unable to come into work at one time or another due to Covid-19.

"We know how important it is to run a reliable service, which is why we are taking this step now, rather than attempting to run the timetable without enough train crew, potentially leading to unwanted late-notice cancellations.

"We thank our customers for their understanding and we look forward to reinstating a more regular train service between Leamington Spa and Nuneaton when staffing levels allow us to do so."

As well as impacting on staff availability, Covid-19 has also delayed the training of new drivers to replace those who retire or leave their jobs. A video explaining the impact this can have on train services, click <a href="https://example.com/here/">here</a>.

Passengers are also being reminded that wearing a face covering on public transport remains mandatory, unless exempt for medical reasons.

## **About West Midlands Trains**

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email <a href="mailto:press.office@wmtrains.co.uk">press.office@wmtrains.co.uk</a>

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- London Northwestern Railway services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast Main Line to and from London Euston.
- West Midlands Railway services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham

Snow Hill.

For more information on these services visit <u>westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</u> or <u>londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk</u>

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