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# BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

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## School Buses Common Questions and Answer

Updated August 11, 2021

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<b>Question</b>	What health and safety precautions will be taken to keep students safe on our school buses?
<b>Answer</b>	<p>We know that the school day begins the moment our students get on the bus. To keep them safe and healthy against COVID-19, we have instituted the following protocols on all school buses:</p> <p><b>Airflow and Circulation:</b> All PPS buses have HEPA air purifiers installed, which recirculates the air six times an hour. Bus drivers will open a minimum of four windows while students are on board.</p> <p><b>Masks:</b> All individuals will wear face coverings. Masks will be made available to any individual who might need one in order to ride their bus.</p> <p><b>Cleaning and Disinfection:</b> Bus drivers will maintain a clean bus, addressing surface dirt and spills promptly. Once daily, drivers will disinfect the bus emphasizing high touch surfaces such as seats, seatbelts, and handrails used by students during transportation either with <a href="#">Oxivir disinfectant spray</a> or disinfectant wipes.</p>
<b>Question</b>	When do you plan on releasing bus routes for the Fall?
<b>Answer</b>	We plan on releasing 2021-2022 Fall Routes on August 24, 2021, on our website: <a href="https://pps.net/bus">PPS.net/bus</a> .
<b>Question</b>	What are the safety expectations of students at their bus stop?
<b>Answer</b>	Students are expected to safely distance (minimum of 3 feet) and are encouraged to wear masks if in close proximity to others.
<b>Question</b>	How will students be seated on the school buses?
<b>Answer</b>	<p>Students will be seated according to a seating chart, whenever possible. We are working to seat students by grade to reduce exposures across grade levels.</p> <p>Students are expected to remain in their seats the entire time they are on the bus.</p>



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<b>Question</b>	Will bus drivers have masks, disinfectants and other supplies to ensure health and safety?
<b>Answer</b>	Yes. Bus drivers will be provided <a href="#">Oxivir disinfectant spray</a> or disinfectant wipes and gloves. This also includes dry cloth for places not dry before the next run, if required.
<b>Question</b>	What happens if a student refuses to keep a mask on his/her face while on school transportation?
<b>Answer</b>	<p>If a student refuses to wear a mask, the driver will inform the school administration and address the situation with the student and/or student family. While this is the last resort, continued noncompliance may result in a student losing eligibility for transportation.</p> <p>If the bus is still at school and a student refuses to wear a mask, the bus will be held and school staff will help address the situation.</p> <p>Bus drivers will continue to reinforce and remind students to wear masks throughout the entirety of their ride. We will provide masks to any student who does not have one.</p>
<b>Question</b>	Are you limiting the number of students on school buses this Fall?
<b>Answer</b>	No, we are not restricting students' access to buses. We also recognize that throughout the week, families might consider alternative modes of transportation, including walking, biking or driving their students to school.
<b>Question</b>	What if a student cannot wear a mask? Will they be allowed to ride?
<b>Answer</b>	If a student cannot wear a mask and requires PPS-provided transportation, our Office of Transportation will work with their school staff and their family to determine appropriate next steps, which could include alternative support.



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<b>Question</b>	How often will buses be cleaned?
<b>Answer</b>	While research now suggests that COVID does not typically spread via surfaces, drivers will disinfect buses daily, emphasizing high touch surfaces such as seats, seatbelts, and handrails used by students during transportation either with Oxivir disinfectant spray or disinfectant wipes.
<b>Question</b>	I have a specific issue regarding my students and their transportation needs. Who can I contact?
<b>Answer</b>	We have a staff dedicated to answering student transportation questions and concerns. Please direct your comments, questions or concerns regarding your student. Please include your student's name in the email. Email: <a href="mailto:transportation@pps.net">transportation@pps.net</a>