

## COVID-19 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES

Updated August 11, 2021

### Low Covid Risk

#### General Student Transportation Health Measures

Please note the following measures that are expected to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission on school buses (applies to all school purpose vehicles):

- Routine self-screening for all staff (using the [School Screening Questionnaire](#));
- Routine daily screening of students by parents/guardians before arriving at the bus stop;
- Parents and students must not be in the pickup area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19;
- A child who develops symptoms while at school is not permitted to return home on a school bus;
- Enhanced school bus cleaning and disinfecting;
- Strict stay at home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19;
- Children should be reminded by parents or teachers to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before arriving at the bus stop and before they leave school prior to taking the bus (and when they get home). If hand washing is not possible, apply hand sanitizer;
- Drivers should wash their hands often, including before and after completing trips (or apply hand sanitizer); and
- Continual reminders of the importance of respiratory etiquette (e.g. cover coughs and sneezes with arm, avoid touching the face, prompt disposal of used tissues, followed by hand hygiene);

#### School Bus Capacity & Who Is Eligible To Ride

In accordance with the Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendation, student transportation service will be provided with normal capacities as outlined by [Department of Education policy](#).

The supplemental service of courtesy seating will be offered as per the District's normal [Courtesy Seating Protocol](#).

### **Boarding / Disembarking Procedures**

#### **What You Will See on the Bus**

- To allow for ventilation, the driver window, the roof vent and some rearward windows should be open (not all of the way), pending weather

#### Morning Pick-up:

- Students/parents are expected to follow the General Student Transportation Health Measures noted above including washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds

before going to the bus stop (or applying hand sanitizer) and maintaining 2 arm lengths physical distancing while waiting at the bus stop;

- Students should avoid touching the tops of the seats while walking to their seat;
- Students should avoid touching the seats, windows, and walls of the bus as well as their schoolmates while sitting in their seat;
- Students should be reminded that open food and drinks are prohibited on the bus;
- Upon arriving at the school, students should remain in their seat until the students in the row in front of them have stood up to disembark and maintain 2 arm lengths from students throughout the disembarking process; and
- Once arrived at the school, students should wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer

#### Afternoon Drop-off:

- Before lining up for the bus after school dismissal, students are expected to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer;
- Students should avoid touching the tops of the seats while walking to their seat;
- Students should avoid touching the seats, windows, walls of the bus while as well as their schoolmates while sitting in their seat;
- Students should be reminded that open food and drinks are prohibited on the bus; and
- Once arrived at home (or their destination), students should wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer

**NOTE 1:** School Administrators are required to maintain an active record of bus assignments and seating plans (if applicable) for their bus routes for student safety and contract tracing purposes.

**NOTE 2:** Drivers are expected to complete [Student Misconduct Reports](#) (page 24 of link) for any student that the driver observes not following these rules and provide a copy to the School Administrator. As this involves the overall safety of all students and communities, the School Administrator is expected to apply strict discipline for school bus rule violations, up to and including permanent removal from the bus.

### **Student Becomes Sick on the Bus**

First and foremost, as per the Student Transportation Health Measures, parents/guardians are required to conduct routine daily screening of students before arriving at the bus stop using the [School Screening Questionnaire](#).

In the rare event a student becomes visibly ill on the school bus (vomiting etc.) upon arrival:

- a) At school (AM run) and the school shall then follow the Student Illness and Management of Students with Possible COVID-19 Protocol;
- b) At their bus stop and the student has disembarked at which point the parent/guardian should use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether they need to be tested for COVID-19.

The school bus shall be removed from service immediately (and replacement bus arranged if applicable) and cleaned and disinfected before being placed back into service.

### **High Covid Risk**

Should an area become a high risk environment, the District will take guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. This may include:

- Requirement of masks while on the bus
- Enhanced cleaning
- Reduced occupancy