

SCHOOL BUS PROTOCOLS DURING COVID-19

Social distancing practices (at least six feet of distance between riders) must be maintained on school buses the maximum extent possible.

There shall be one student seated per row, skipping the row behind the driver. Students in the same household may be seated in the same row.

Students shall not sit within six feet of the bus driver. School buses shall have physical partitions or visual cues, e.g., floor decals, colored tape, or signs, to indicate where students should not sit near the bus driver.

Students, bus drivers, and any other staff member must wear a face covering upon entering the school bus, unless a student is unable to wear a face mask or doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

As students enter the bus, their temperature will be taken. If the student's temperature is at 100.4 degrees or higher, they will not be accepted on the bus.

School buses shall be cleaned and sanitized including seats, windows, rails, and highly touch surfaces daily after AM & PM routes. There will be a two-step process for cleaning and disinfecting school buses. School buses will first be cleaned with soap and water or an all-purpose cleaner to remove dirt and germs from surfaces. School buses will then be disinfected to kill the remaining germs using EPA-approved sanitizing agents, which are on the U.S. EPA's list of products that have been shown to be effective against COVID-19. The manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products, e.g., concentration, application method, and contact time, etc., shall be used. Each bus driver and/or person responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the bus must be trained and demonstrate an understanding of the established protocols that must be taken to properly clean and sanitize the bus. Topics of training may include proper use of cleaning and disinfecting agents, the cleaning schedule for various surfaces, and safety precautions that need to be taken, e.g., ensuring adequate ventilation while cleaning and sanitizing. Each bus driver and/or person responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the bus shall complete and sign a **Cleaning and Disinfecting School Bus Checklist** each day certifying that the required process was completed before each route.

To limit possible physical interaction among students, students will board the school bus by filling the back rows first, and then progressing forward. When leaving the bus, students should exit in the opposite order.

Students will have assigned seating on the bus.

Windows will be opened, whenever possible.

Signs will be displayed in the bus to reinforce social distancing and hygiene rules, such as staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, and avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth.

Bus drivers shall practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff, e.g., hand hygiene and face coverings.

Bus drivers will be screened before their shift begins pursuant to the District's policy for health screening employees.

Bus drivers will be reminded to implement certain personal hygiene actions, e.g. frequent hand washing, and be afforded the opportunity to do so.

A bus driver and/or staff member shall immediately notify the principal and the school nurse when he/she observes a student on the bus with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The student shall respectfully be kept away and isolated from well students with continued supervision. If it occurs on the way to school, the school nurse will examine the student before the student enters the school building, notify the parents, and may refer him/her for testing and treatment. If it occurs on the way home from school, the bus driver and/or staff member shall deliver the student to his/her parent or to an authorized adult at the student's home or if no one is home the student will be transported back to the school district until a parent or an authorized adult can pick up the student.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- A fever of 100° F or greater;
- Cough;
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- Chills;
- Repeated shaking with chills;
- Muscle pain;
- Headache;
- Sore throat;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Fatigue;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Nausea or vomiting;
- Diarrhea