

STAYING SAFE ON THE BUS

Questions ?

Answers

Our students play a big role in keeping our schools safe by following new COVID-19 protocols while traveling on the bus. Take a minute to review these questions with your family as you prepare for the new school year.

Q Will masks be required on school buses?

A Yes, students, bus drivers and other staff must wear acceptable face coverings at all times while on school buses (i.e., when boarding and exiting the bus and while seated). Bus drivers will provide a face covering to any student who needs one prior to boarding the bus. Students whose physical or mental health would be impaired by wearing a face covering are not required to do so, but must be appropriately socially distanced. If your child cannot medically tolerate wearing a mask, be sure to contact school administration prior to the start of the school year or as soon as the need is identified.

Q What will social distancing look like on school buses?

A In addition to wearing face coverings at all times, students, drivers and staff should maintain appropriate social distancing to the extent practicable while on the school bus. Members of the same household may be seated within six feet of each other. Otherwise, students will be spread out as much as possible, and seats may be assigned to students to assist in this effort. Students should face forward at all times and avoid turning around to speak to the person behind them while on the bus. When getting on or off the bus, students should stay six feet away from the person boarding or exiting in front of them. To reduce overall density on buses, parents are encouraged to drive their child(ren) to school.

Q How will social distancing be enforced when students are getting on and off the bus?

A Students boarding and exiting buses will be required to remain socially distant to the extent possible and wear a face covering. Buses will be loaded from back to front and unloaded from front to back so that students aren't passing each other in the aisle. Students should also avoid jamming entrances and exits when arriving at school or departing to board buses. Once in school or back at home, students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer as soon as possible.

Q How many students will be on a school bus?

A The number of students on each bus may vary, but capacity will be reduced to encourage and allow for social distancing. Members of the same household may sit together on the bus; otherwise, students should be prepared to sit apart or where directed by the driver or other school staff member.

Q What will school bus stops look like?

A Students are required to wear a mask at the bus stop if students other than family members are present at the stop. Everyone at the bus stop or waiting area must socially distance by standing six feet apart from those who don't live in their household.

Q What other measures will be taken to promote health and safety on school buses?

A All buses that are used every day by districts and contract carriers will be cleaned and/or disinfected at least once a day, with special attention paid to frequently touched surfaces. Weather permitting, bus windows and ventilation hatches (where available) may be open while transporting students to help improve ventilation.

Important reminders for students using school transportation:

- Wear a face covering at all times, including at the bus stop.
- Stay six feet apart from other students when boarding and exiting the bus.
- Pay attention to instructions given by your bus driver or other staff member.
- Don't sit with students who do not live in your household.
- Face forward at all times while on the bus.
- Avoid touching surfaces that are often touched by passengers, if possible.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands before leaving home in the morning and shortly after arriving at school.