

# READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

## GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020–21

### Transportation

#### What is Required when it comes to school transportation?

##### Schools must:

- Include transportation departments (and associated contracted providers, if used) in planning for return to service.
- Buses are cleaned frequently. Conduct targeted cleanings between routes, with a focus on disinfecting frequently touched surfaces of the bus (see section 2j).
- Develop protocol for loading/unloading that includes visual screening for students exhibiting symptoms and logs for contact-tracing. This can be done at the time of arrival and departure.
  - If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms, provide a face shield or face covering (unless they are already wearing one) and keep six feet away from others. Continue transporting the student.
    - *The symptomatic student should be seated in the first row of the bus during transportation, and multiple windows should be opened to allow for fresh air circulation, if feasible.*
    - *The symptomatic student should leave the bus first. After all students exit the bus, the seat and surrounding surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected.*
  - If arriving at school, notify staff to begin isolation measures.
    - If transporting for dismissal and the student displays an onset of symptoms, notify the school.
- Consult with parents/guardians of students who may require additional support (e.g., students who experience a disability and require specialized transportation as a related service) to appropriately provide service.
- Drivers wear face shields or face coverings when not actively driving and operating the bus.

- Inform parents/guardians of practical changes to transportation service (i.e., physical distancing at bus stops and while loading/unloading, potential for increased route time due to additional precautions, sanitizing practices, and face coverings).
- Face coverings or face shields for all students in grades Kindergarten and up following [CDC guidelines](#) applying the guidance in section 1h to transportation settings.

### **What are Recommended Practices Schools can use?**

- Provide at least three feet of physical distance between passengers. Potential exposures on a bus are significantly reduced by three feet of distance, in combination with seatbacks which provide physical barriers between rows.
- When feasible, provide at least six feet of physical distance between the driver and passengers (except during boarding and while assisting those with mobility devices); reinforce this requirement by cordoning off seats as appropriate.
- Bus drivers are encouraged to have access to surplus face coverings to provide to students when needed.
- When feasible, use visual cues (e.g., floor decals, colored tape, or signs) to discourage passengers from standing and sitting within three feet of other passengers, drivers and other transit staff on the bus/train.
- Determine and post maximum occupancy for each bus while following this guidance.
- Where feasible, provide drivers and all transportation staff with access to handwashing stations or at least 60-95% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. (Hand sanitizer dispensers should not be installed on a school bus.)
- Make routing adjustments to:
  - Accommodate reduced passenger capacity and adjusted bell times.
  - Account for stable cohorts with students who share a residence (this may increase projected capacity).
  - Account for reduction in staff due to those in increased risk populations.