

# Joint Statement on Transportation



The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recognize that many Oregonians are asking why the tools we're using to keep students and employees safe differ between busses and inside school facilities.

There are important public health distinctions in these environments and these distinctions require diverse solutions. We have assembled the below information to help explain why these approaches are different.

1. Face coverings: New updated guidance requires that all students in kindergarten and above wear face coverings, including when riding the bus.
2. Time spent: While students ride the bus for different amounts of time, generally these trips are shorter than time spent inside school buildings, which makes bus rides safer.
3. High seat backs act as barrier: Like plexiglass or other dividers, seat backs offer some protection from droplet transmissions.
4. Ventilation: Frequent door opening/closing and open windows helps fresh air circulate in the buses, which lowers the risk of infection.

The full requirements and recommendations for transportation are available on [ODE's website](#).