

Student Transportation Approach for Back-to-School

Nbiising Bus Lines has implemented recommended measures to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the context of school bus operations to protect both students and drivers. The recommendations and guidance in this document are subject to change, based on the evolution of transmission of COVID-19 and the discovery of new evidence.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND CONTROLS IMPLEMENTED

1. The seat behind the driver will remain empty to maintain physical distancing between the driver and the students.
2. Students and drivers will complete a self-assessment prior to leaving home for school or work. Students and drivers who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school or work. Bus drivers will comply with the NFN [Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace Policy](#). Students residing in NFN are encouraged to contact the Community Health Nurse at (705) 753-3312 to discuss symptoms.
3. Students will be assigned seating. A record of the seating plan will be kept to assist with contact tracing. Students who live in the same household or attend the same school cohort will be seated together.
4. To practice physical distancing, students will:
 - Sit in their assigned seats;
 - Load the bus from back to front to reduce exposure with others; and
 - Maintain a distance of two (2) meters while waiting at the school bus stop.
5. If weather permits, some windows will be opened to increase ventilation.
6. Drivers will implement additional cleaning protocols prior to a trip and after a trip.
7. Students and drivers must wear a [non-medical mask](#) or cloth face covering. Commercially available, homemade cloth masks, or face coverings play an important role where consistent physical distancing or the use of physical barriers are not possible. Masks are available at the NFN Education Office or Lawrence Commanda Health Centre.
8. Bus drivers will be supplied with personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies, including:
 - ✓ Masks, gloves, and face shields
 - ✓ Garbage bags with weighted garbage bins
 - ✓ Tissues
 - ✓ Hand sanitizer
 - ✓ Disinfectant wipes
 - ✓ Additional masks for students
9. Bus drivers will receive training for PPE and disinfecting and abide by the NFN Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace Policy.
10. The following signs will be posted on the bus:
 - Protect others from getting sick – When coughing and sneezing (WHO)
 - Physical distancing

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- Masks
 - Handwashing (WHO)
 - Screening questionnaire
11. Students will not eat or drink on the bus.
 12. Parents have an option to transport their child(ren) to school.
 13. Parents who do not feel comfortable having their children return to in-person learning will have a choice to pursue online remote learning with their school. Please contact the school to register.
 14. Parents should reinforce proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, and environmental cleaning with their child(ren).

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL BUS OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The optimal way to prevent airborne transmission of COVID-19 is to apply a combination of controls, not only PPE, to mitigate and/or eliminate hazards drivers and passengers may be exposed to. School bus drivers are encouraged to monitor and abide to public health authorities' recommendations such as those published on the Government of Canada [Coronavirus website](#). The controls also to refer to Transport Canada's recently issued [Federal Guidance for School Bus Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Proven interventions to limit the spread of COVID-19 include handwashing and maintaining a two (2) meter distance from other people. It is critical that these measures continue.

Before a Trip

- All drivers and students must self-assess every day before getting on the bus and attending school.
 - All drivers and students who experience symptoms, including mild cough or low-grade fever (37.3 C or more), need to self-isolate and stay home. If another member of a driver or student's household develops symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended that the driver or student stay home and self-isolate. Drivers and students should follow the guidance in the provided screening tool which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required and getting tested for COVID-19.
 - A child who develops symptoms while at school will not be permitted to return home on a school bus and should be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Drivers will follow an enhanced cleaning protocol of cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces on the school bus prior to a trip.
 - The following supplies are available to drivers for cleaning:
 - PPE
 - Disposable cloths, paper towels, and absorbent materials
 - Disinfectant wipes and spray
 - Waste disposal bags and tape
 - Drivers will clean the following high-touch surfaces:
 - Seats
 - Inside hand railing

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- Floors
 - Interior windows
 - Inside and outside door handles, door grab handles, pads, and armrests
 - Keys
 - Steering wheel
 - Shift lever and console
 - Dashboard
 - Turn signal and wiper stalks
 - Seat and seat adjuster
 - Any other parts that are commonly used and that may have been touched.
- When cleaning school bus interiors, drivers will:
 - Put on disposable, water-proof gloves;
 - Avoid hand contact with the face, especially the nose and eyes and avoid direct contact with contaminated areas;
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the recommended dilution rates, contact times and conditions specific to the surface; and
 - Wipe off any solution or residue.
 - Dispose of soiled cleaning clothes, cloths, disposable gloves, and any other items in contact with contaminated surfaces in waste disposal bag. Seal the waste disposal bag and discard in lined trash bin.
 - Wash hands when finished using proper hand washing techniques.
 - In addition to regular cleaning of school bus interiors, it is recommended that operators reduce the number of drivers per vehicle and ensure that the same drivers use the same vehicle and keep the same work schedules to limit the number of contacts.
 - Hand hygiene for drivers and students:
 - Bus drivers should wash their hands often. When it is not possible to hand wash, the use of hand sanitizer is recommended.
 - Students should be reminded by parents or teachers to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before they leave home to take the bus, when they arrive at school, when they are leaving school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.
 - All drivers and students must wear a non-medical face mask or cloth face covering.

During a Trip

- Bus drivers are encouraged to carry alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol and use it after direct contact with students, as needed throughout a trip. Sanitizer should be properly labeled and stored in accordance with its material safety data sheet, and out of reach of children.
- If possible, windows of the bus should be opened to promote proper ventilation.
- Students and drivers must wear a [non-medical mask](#) or cloth face covering. Commercially available, homemade cloth masks, or face coverings play an important role where consistent physical distancing or the use of physical barriers are not possible. Masks are available at the NFN Education Office or Lawrence Commanda Health Centre.

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- Students will practice physical distancing and sit in their assigned seats and load the bus from back to front to reduce exposure with others.

At the End of the Trip

- Drivers will repeat a thorough cleaning of high-touch surfaces with appropriate disinfectants as described above.
- Bus drivers who start to experience symptoms after completing a trip should stay home, self-isolate, and advise the Education Department and Lawrence Commanda Health Centre for additional direction.