

Guidelines for Transportation to Schools

Wherever possible, alternative transportation to school is encouraged. Parents/caregivers/students may provide their own transportation, including carpooling, walking or cycling, to avoid possible virus exposure on the bus. Note that carpooling can also be a risk for transmission. For advice on how to minimize this risk, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/transportation.html.

Where school busing is necessary, the following guidelines should be followed by school bus drivers and students:

- Seats on buses should be prioritized for students who do not have alternative means to get to and from school.
- Students with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school or be passengers on buses (see <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>).
- Drivers with symptoms of COVID-19 should not drive the school bus (see <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>).
- All passengers and drivers should perform hand hygiene before and after being on the bus.
- Consult Transport Canada's guidelines when considering a physical barrier between the driver and passengers (see www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/road/joint-guidance-document-transport-canada-csa-d250-school-bus-technical-committee.html).
- As an alternative to installing a physical barrier, leave the seat immediately behind the driver unoccupied.
- When possible and as weather permits, open windows to allow for increased ventilation.
- There should be one student (or two students from the same household) per seat.
- Special needs students who require a companion may sit next to their companion (treated as if they were from the same household).
- Assign seats so the same students are seated in the same seats every day for regular bus routes.
- As per routine protocols, students should remain seated in their own seats and should not move around the bus.
- Maintain up-to-date lists of bus riders and drivers to enable contact tracing if required.
- Children should maintain physical distancing (two metres) when lining up to get on the bus, and when exiting the bus.
- Ensure there is enhanced cleaning of seats and other high-touch surfaces (e.g., windows, railings) before each new group of students attends the bus.

- Bus pick-up and drop-off of students at the school should be staggered where possible, to avoid crowding at the school entrance.
- Buses should be loaded from rear to front and unloaded from the front to the rear; one student or household should stand up and exit at a time to minimize close contact between students.
- Bus drivers and students may wear non-medical masks if they so choose (guidelines on how to wear a mask can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prepareandprevent/index.html).
- Subject to public health guidance and risk of COVID-19 transmission, additional measures for physical distancing may be required during the school year.