



September 1, 2020

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

- 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/>).
- For mask requirements on school buses, refer to the *Guidance for Mask Use in Schools* document at: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask_guidance.pdf.
- All passengers and drivers should perform hand hygiene before and after being on the bus.
- Where capacity allows, leave the seat immediately behind the driver unoccupied.
- When possible and as weather permits, open windows and/or roof vents to allow for increased ventilation.
- Assign seats so the same students are seated in the same seats every day for regular bus routes.
- Where possible, seat one student per seat on the school bus. Students from the same household can also sit together on one seat.
- Where one student/household per seat is not possible, seat students from the same in-school cohort on the same seat on the bus.
- Regardless of seating arrangement needs, ensure that up-to-date lists of bus riders and drivers are maintained to enable contact tracing if required.
- Students who require a companion to ride the bus may sit next to their companion (treated as if they were from the same household and/or in-school cohort).

- When unable to practice physical distancing while assisting students using mobility devices or child restraint systems, additional considerations may be necessary (see www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/reopening/supports_non_distance.html).
- As per routine protocols, students should remain seated in their own seats and should not move around the bus.
- Students may transfer from one bus to another to get to and from school. These students will be considered members of two bus cohorts.
- Children should maintain physical distancing (two metres is recommended) when lining up to get on the bus, and when exiting 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.
- To the greatest extent possible, buses should be loaded from back to front and unloaded from front to back; one student or household should stand up and exit at a time to minimize close contact between students.
- 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.
- Hard-surface disinfectants or cleaning agents may be transported on a bus providing the product is secured and not accessible to students (maximum of 1 litre).
- Subject to public health guidance and risk of COVID-19 transmission, additional measures for physical distancing may be required during the school year.