
School Transportation

This guidance outlines infection control recommendations and strategies for Maricopa County K - 12 schools¹ providing school transportation services to respond to community spread of disease during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Encourage alternative modes of transportation** for students who have other options to decrease the number of students on a bus at one time.
- **Provide home screening tools for parents/guardians.** Educate parents and guardians on the importance of symptom screening prior to arriving to the bus stop.
- **Place symptom signage on the exterior of the bus** to remind parents/students of daily symptom screening and to communicate the symptoms students should not have if traveling on the school bus or other district, private and public transportation.
- **Individuals must stay home and not board transportation** if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19.
- It is not recommended that bus drivers conduct health checks prior to allowing students on the bus. See [Symptom Screening in Schools](#) guidance.

RECOMMENDATIONS – Face Coverings:

- **Ensure all students, teachers, staff and adult visitors wear a face covering while on a school bus** or other district, public and private modes of transportation used for school activities unless they fall under the EXCEPTIONS category within the [Recommendations for Use of Face Coverings in the School Setting](#) guidance.
- **Driver must wear a face covering and should be a minimum of 6 feet from students.** Consider using a plexiglass barrier for the driver.
- When a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained between students, face coverings should be worn unless an exception applies.
- The bus driver should ensure student are wearing face coverings.
- **Maintain a supply of face coverings on the bus** for use by students who board the bus without one.

RECOMMENDATIONS – Physical Distancing:

- **Encourage physical distancing** at bus stops.
- **Minimize the number of people** on the bus at one time to promote physical distancing.
- **Assign seating** by family groups or cohorts (same students sit together daily).

¹ Preschools associated with K-12 schools should follow the [guidance for Child Care Centers](#)



- **Have the bus driver use the same bus and drive the same routes** as feasible.
- **Use physical markings** to show students where to sit.
- **Load buses from back to front** and unload from front to back.
- **Have windows open** if weather allows.
- Adults who do not need to be on the bus should not be on the bus.

RECOMMENDATIONS – Hand Hygiene:

- **Have riders use hand sanitizer** when loading and unloading the bus.
 - Frequently check and refill hand sanitizer.
 - Hand sanitizers should only be on school bus during use. Bus driver should remove hand sanitizer while the bus is not in operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS – Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- **Clean and disinfect** transportation vehicles regularly.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g. Surfaces of the driver’s cockpit, seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, windows, and grab handle etc.).
 - Clean and disinfect adaptive items used during transportation (e.g. car seats, wheelchairs, walkers).
- Students must not be present when a vehicle is being cleaned.
- Ensure cleaning and disinfecting products are not accessible to students.
- Keep vehicle windows and doors open during cleaning and between trips to let the vehicles air out thoroughly.

PLANNING

- Designate isolation seats to be available for students who self-report or have visible symptoms who are not accompanied to the bus stop by an adult:
 - Provide a face covering for a student placed in the isolation seat if they do not already have one.
 - Notify someone at the school that a student is on their way who should be isolated.
 - Students placed in the isolation seats should be sent directly to a designated isolation area when the bus arrives to school.
- Plan for the bus driver who becomes symptomatic during the day and cannot continue to transport students.
- Plan for students who use school transportation to get to school and become symptomatic during the school day should not ride the bus home from school.