

Littleton Public Schools

School Bus Transportation Information and Guidelines during COVID-19

Dated August 2020

Introduction

The busses in our fleet are 83 passenger buses. Under distancing requirements, our passenger load limit will be reduced to 27 students, one per seat. Below we describe what a student should expect using District transportation during the 2020-2021 school year. *It is important to note that transportation guidance will continually change based on the evolving nature of the pandemic.*

These health guidelines are consistent with the universal health and safety practices of the CDC and DESE guidelines, which require **masks, hygiene** and **physical distancing**. Throughout all aspects of a student's day, we will implement these practices to reduce transmission risk.

Students who ride the bus will need to comply with the expectations outlined below. Parents/Guardians need to ensure their students know what is expected.

School Bus Sanitizing and Disinfecting Protocols

The Transportation Department will implement additional sanitizing protocols to reduce transmission risk.

* Prior to transporting any students. Each driver will engage in professional learning that covers new policies, procedures and bus cleaning protocols.

* Before and after each route, drivers will clean high-use areas of the bus including seats and hand railings.

Student Bus Route Cohorts

Per DESE, "schools should look for ways to isolate cohorts of students and prevent inter-group contact to the extent feasible." To reduce transmission risk and keep students in bus route cohorts:

- Students will be transported to one pick up and drop off location ONLY. This location must be the same every day (am and pm)
- If an alternative location is required, it must be on the same bus.

Student Screening Procedures

Per DESE guidance, parents and guardians will serve as the primary screening mechanism for COVID-19 symptoms. Parents/guardians are expected to conduct a daily symptom check. If students exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms, families may not send their children to school. DESE will provide a checklist of symptoms for families to use. Bus drivers will observe students once they board the bus in the morning and refer any who appear symptomatic to the school nurse. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the District is prepared to collaborate with the local Board of Health as they enact contact tracing following CDC Guidance.

At the Bus Stop

- Parents/Guardians will have screened their student(s) at home before they leave home for the bus stop.
- While at the bus stop, students (and caregivers) should maintain six(6) feet of physical distance and wear masks.

Boarding the Bus

- When the vehicle stops at the designated stop, students will maintain six (6) feet of distance while boarding the bus
- All drivers and students are required to wear masks on the bus
- Student masks should be securely on their face before they board
- As student boards the bus, they will apply hand sanitizer to clean their hands
- Students will sit one to a seat (see diagram below) starting with the seats in the back

Riding the Bus

- Students will remain in their seat, facing forward, while the bus is traveling to and from school.
- Bus windows and roof hatches will be open at all times except in extreme weather.
- Drivers and students will wear face masks or coverings at all times.

Bus Ride Times

Bus ride times will most likely increase due to longer stop times to allow for physical distancing and sanitizing in the morning. Also, due to the increased volume anticipated by parent drop-offs, the added influx of cars will cause additional delays at student arrival and departure, as none of our campuses are designed to handle heavy traffic.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT: CHRIS WHITCOMB

lpsbus@littletonps.org

Dee Bus Littleton Office

(978) 486-9530

