



# School Transportation Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic

These guidelines apply to home-to-school transportation services and subcontracted services intended solely for the purposes of transporting students to and from school. This guidance does not apply to student transportation provided by public transit services.

In order to transport students to and from school during the COVID-19 pandemic as safely as possible, transportation agencies shall work with schools and districts to ensure the following health and safety protocols are in place:

1. Establish procedures for staff and students' parents or guardians to conduct symptom and exposure screening at-home each day before leaving for school.
2. Drivers and students should wash hands at home immediately before departing, and may use hand sanitizer prior to boarding, if feasible.
3. All drivers, adults, and students must wear well-fitting masks at all times while awaiting and riding on buses unless there is a medical or behavioral contraindication.
4. While awaiting and riding the bus, maintain six feet of physical distance between adults and between adults and students, where practicable; three feet distance is permissible between students as long as all riders wear well-fitting masks on the bus at all times.
5. If feasible, leave the row directly behind the driver open to support physical distancing between the driver and students.
6. If needed, buses should be filled first with one student per bench seat, with a second rider added per bench seat as the bus fills.
7. Students from the same family and/or the same stable group should sit together whenever possible.
8. Ensure each bus is equipped with extra unused well-fitting masks for students who may have forgotten to bring one.
9. Drivers should open vents and windows to the greatest extent possible even in cold or inclement weather. Two windows on a bus should be opened fully at a minimum.
10. Students should sit forward facing and minimize talking while riding.
11. Buses should be thoroughly cleaned daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

12. Transportation provider must inform the school representative ASAP if the driver of the bus is a positive or presumed positive case of COVID-19.
13. School representative must inform the transportation provider ASAP if a student on the bus is a positive or presumed positive case of COVID-19.
14. All schools should work with families to encourage students to walk or bike to school. The San Mateo County Office of Education's Safe Routes to School Program can help schools develop strategies to maximize these opportunities.