

MSBOA Return to School Roadmap for School Bus Operations

This guidance outlines some potential options for contractors to implement at their school bus terminals when school resumes. While this guidance is only a starting point, contractors are highly encouraged to creatively come up with solutions on how to increase physical space between your staff in order to protect their health and others that they may have contact with. Our goal as an industry is to offer a clean safe ride to our passengers.

Driver Health and Safety

Drivers should wear a mask and vinyl gloves. Face shields are optional and should not obstruct vision.

Consider private daily health screenings for drivers with a temperature check and questionnaire regarding symptoms. While protecting the confidentiality of the document to comply with employment laws, employers could utilize a daily sign off form with these questions:

- Have you or someone in your household been in contact with someone with a confirmed COVID-19 case?
- Do you or anyone in your household have any COVID-19 symptoms (Fever >100.4, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing)?
- Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?
- In the past 14 days, have you been out of the country or have you visited a COVID-19 hotspot?

Drivers should be encouraged to stay home if they are sick, except to get medical care.

Drivers should adhere to practicing physical distancing and staying six feet apart.

Drivers should have staggered times to enter terminal to avoid large groups gathering before their route.

Safe Environment for Students

High touch areas on the school bus should be wiped down with [EPA registered household disinfectant](#) or with a bleach solution (1/3 cup per 1 gallon of water) following each route.

- Handrail
- Door assembly
- Dash
- Driver compartment
- School bus seating

Students should be encouraged to wear masks.

Students should be seated with family members or distanced to the fullest extent possible in the exterior seating positions or skip rows when possible.

Roof hatches should be raised (weather permitting) to keep airflow exiting the vehicle.

Students should be loaded from the rear of the vehicle to the front and unloaded from front to rear to prevent incidental contact.

Routes should be limited to under one hour to reduce contact time between students.

Provide hand sanitizer on the vehicle mounted for students as they enter the vehicle.

Students should be encouraged not to sit in the seat behind the driver.

Parents should be educated regarding daily health checks of their students.

Seats that are to remain open should be visually indicated with tape.

No water or food/gum/candy should be consumed on the bus.

Students should be educated to maintain social distancing at school bus stops.

Protocol for Terminals

Encourage all staff to practice good hand hygiene. Have hand sanitizer, personal protection equipment and cleaning supplies in stock and ready to be used by staff.

Consider eliminating shared workspaces. Clean high touch surfaces frequently, if staff must share a computer keyboard to punch in, the area should be wiped down following use.

Serve community meals outside if possible and do not allow employees to all utilize the same serving utensils. Avoid a community candy dish or donut box.

Review school bus stops to reduce number of students gathering in a single location.

Discuss with school building officials the capability of staggered loading and unloading times to reduce the number of students entering a single entrance or exit at one time.

Consider revamping school bus rules and transportation policies to reflect operational and social changes.

Educate employees. Post information regarding COVID-19 symptoms. Develop and document policies regarding proper cleaning procedures and worker protection.

Consider online training and meetings when possible.

Resources-

Minnesota Department of Health Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>

CDC Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

OSHA

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>