



Parkland School Division

Transportation Services Covid-19 Measures

Parents are encouraged to review and consider all provincial and local measures in order to make an informed decision when deciding on Transportation for their child(ren). The final decision on whether to access the service is entirely parents discretion. These strategies include:

Parents should note that due to the current pandemic, there may be times when a driver is ill and the route cannot run. Transportation routes may be cancelled on short notice due to driver / staff sickness. We will endeavor to keep parents updated but strongly encourage you to monitor the PSD website, Transportation page, “Bus Status” for the most up to date information.

PROCEDURES

- Students from the same house will be seated together where possible.
- Students will have assigned seating and the seating plan will be based on the order of pick up in the mornings. (First pickups seated at the rear of the bus and continue forward to avoid students walking past each other regardless of grades age)
- All riders must scan their RFID bus pass to electronically record their attendance on the bus when entering and leaving the bus.
- Seating plans will be **MANDATORY** and strictly enforced by all drivers in order to facilitate contact tracing should there be a student that contracts COVID-19. **No deviations are allowed.**
- If possible, the seat behind the driver will be kept empty.
- Items such as iPads, iPhone and books along with other electronic items should not be shared with other students.
- All waste items (e.g. Kleenex etc) should be kept with the student and disposed of at home or at the school and should not be discarded on the bus.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- As per the Chief Medical Officer of Health’s recommendation on mask-wearing – All Alberta students in grades four (4) to grade Twelve (12) will be required to wear masks on ALL SCHOOL BUSES. Parents with child(ren) in grades Kindergarten (K) to Three (3) are strongly encouraged to have their child(ren) wear a mask on the school bus due to the difficulty of maintaining physical distancing of two (2) metres at all times. **Physical distancing of 2 metres will not be possible on our buses.**
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) **will be required by all drivers.** This will include masks, and may include gloves or a face shield. Driver’s may be removing their mask / pulling it down when they are driving, this is to avoid any potential vision impairment. Any PPE in use cannot interfere with the safe operation of the school bus.



ENHANCED CLEANING & HYGIENE

- Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting including a cleaning log to be kept on the bus. High touch surface areas will be cleaned several times a day and regular deep cleaning will occur when students are not present.
- Good hand hygiene is expected for both drivers and students, this may include wearing of gloves and use of hand sanitizer products.
- **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** will be allowed to be consumed on the bus journey regardless of the duration of the trip.

PARENT & STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- The COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire shall be reviewed each day by all school staff and students prior to coming to school. Students should not enter the bus if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. Be sure that the self-screening tool has been used each day prior to leaving for the school bus.
- Students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear face masks on the bus. Bus drivers will have a very limited number of disposable face masks for emergency situations only.
- If a child becomes symptomatic during the bus trip, the driver will make the appropriate arrangements for the student. Where possible the parents will be contacted to meet the bus on the route, or the student will be transported to school and the school will isolate the student until the parents arrive.

SCREENING

- Strict stay at home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. (even if symptoms resemble a mild cold)
- If a child becomes symptomatic during the bus trip, the driver, in coordination with Transportation Services dispatch, will make the appropriate arrangements for the student. If possible the parent will be contacted to meet the bus at a point on the bus route to take their child(ren). If the parent cannot meet the bus at a point on the route, the child(ren) will be transported to the school and isolated until a parent can pick them up. If a child(ren) gets sick on the way home again the parent will be contacted to try and meet the bus at a point on the route, if this is not possible the driver where possible will try to isolate the child/ student to avoid any contact with other students until arriving home. The students will be instructed to stay home and use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.
- Parent should have a contingency plan for their child(ren) should they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms before the school bus pickup time. **Child(ren) should not be placed on the school bus if they are sick or feeling sick due to the possible spread of the infection.**
- NO GUEST RIDERS will be permitted on any PSD buses. Only designated registered riders for their transfer and home buses, with a valid bus pass, will be allowed to board the buses.



TRANSFER SITES

- Parents and children/students should not be in the stop pick-up area / Transfer sites or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Transfer sites will have a directional flow that all student will be required to follow to maximize social distancing.
- Additional staff members will be added to all transfer sites to assist children/ students navigate the areas and to avoid crowding where possible.
- Buses will be cleaned after every run; particular attention will be paid to the high touch point areas.
- Buses will have a wipe down of high touch area after the transfer students have vacated the bus. This will be completed before new transfer students are permitted to enter the bus
- Schools should develop procedures for student loading, unloading and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons (except household members), when possible.
- **Masks will be mandatory for all Grades 4 – 12 students even outside at the Transfer Sites. Mask use for kindergarten to grade 3 students will continue to be optional.**

There is no guarantee that physical distancing will happen on any of the PSD school buses, parents should consider this when choosing to place their child(ren) on the school bus.

CONTRACTORS

- Will instruct drivers on the correct use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. (PPE). PPE could include a face mask, face shield and nitrile gloves. Parkland School Division will provide drivers with 2 reusable masks prior to the first day of school.
- Should have secured on the bus, a spray bottle of a disinfectant solution in order to clean the bus after the morning and afternoon runs. Please note that both an MSDS (safety sheet for your disinfectant product) and a cleaning log will be required to be on the bus at all times. Transfer bus drivers will also need to conduct a quick wipe down of the high touch point areas after transfer students have exited the bus and before the new transfer students are permitted to enter the bus
- ASSIGNED seating plans are **MANDATORY** for all students and transfer students, no exceptions to this will be permitted. Please ensure all your drivers including spare drivers, adhere to this requirement. A record of these seating plans or any additions or modifications to the seating plans must be recorded and kept for the purposes of contact tracing.
- Bus drivers assisting students with high needs will be issued a face shield by PSD to be used when necessary while loading /unloading the bus.