

BT1-4: Buses and Transportation

BT1

General Protocols

Whenever possible, parents should transport their children to and from school to allow for more social distancing space on the district's busses. Older students should walk or ride a bike to school when possible. For those using district provided transportation the following protocols are in effect.

- Parents and district staff will encourage students to maintain social distancing while waiting at bus stops and while entering and exiting the bus.
- Students should present a completed health screening form signed by a parent or guardian to board a bus each morning. Students without such a form may enter the bus if they pass a temperature screening conducted by the bus driver. These students will have to undergo a full screening upon arrival to school.
- Sick individuals must not enter or approach the bus.
- All persons on the bus must wear masks with the noted exceptions outlined in HC1 above.
- Windows should remain open as much as possible given weather conditions.
- Drivers should carry a box of disposable masks, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer and a thermometer at all times.
- Only one bus can unload students at a time when multiple busses are present; the first bus in line should unload first.

BT2

Seating

All students should have assigned seats. Where possible:

- Siblings should sit together.
- Students should be placed in cohorts by school (e.g. RUHS students at the back of the bus).
- Empty seats should be used to provide for social distancing.
- If possible, the two seats behind the bus driver should be left open.

BT2.1

Winter Weather Considerations

As the colder weather begins to approach, transportation providers (school buses) must consider the health and welfare of all passengers on the bus while at the same time ensuring they remain

as comfortable as possible. It is recommended that transportation providers do the following:

- Regardless of weather conditions, maintain constant airflow through the interior of the bus by:
 - Having at least 4 windows open
 - 2 windows in the front of the bus (each of the front passenger seats)
 - 2 windows in the rear of the bus (very last windows on each side of the bus)
- Keeping the driver's window open, basing the opening amount on weather conditions. Preferably the windows should remain fully open, however, if inclement weather mandates window openings be reduced to prevent snow, ice, rain from coming in then the opening should be reduced.
 - If window openings are reduced more windows should be opened. Leaving roof hatches partially open, weather permitting. Hatches should be opened on the rearward side.

Maintain a suitable temperature on the bus:

- Recommend students wear weather appropriate clothing
- Utilize heaters, per vendor instructions, to maintain a suitable interior temperature

BT3

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Busses will be subject to routine cleaning and disinfection each morning and after each trip with a focus on frequently touched surfaces including those in the driver's cockpit.
- Driver's will wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer on a regular schedule throughout the day.

BT4

If a Known or Suspected Person with COVID-19 Has Been Transported

- The person will be seated in the front seat with the window open. No other persons should sit with this individual.
- The bus driver will immediately notify the principal and nurse of the student's school who will immediately work with the bus garage to enact and follow the CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection of non-emergency transport vehicles: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>
- The Vermont Department of Health will be contacted to assist in determining who should self-quarantine (see HC4 and HC6).