



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

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September 3, 2020

## SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION DURING COVID-19

We are all doing our part to maintain safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and are looking forward to students being back in school. It is very important that all drivers have an up-to-date passenger list at all times; therefore, if your child **will not** be riding the bus, we ask that you contact the Transportation Department at 250-782-2106 to advise.

Below are instructions for students to safely ride their school bus during COVID-19:

1. Please complete a health assessment on your child each day prior to accessing bus service. The Daily Health Check List is attached. **Children who are sick must stay home. Children who develop symptoms while at school will not be permitted to return home on a school bus and should be picked up by a parent or guardian.** We are not able to transport students who are ill or showing symptoms.
2. To ensure that your child is as safe as possible, please review safety procedures before riding the bus:
  - a. Maintain physical distancing while waiting for the school bus.
  - b. Always follow the driver's instructions. The driver has immediate authority on the school bus at all times.
  - c. When unloading from the bus, wait until the seat in front of you has vacated before you get up to go, ensure physical distancing is observed.
  - d. When possible, bus routes will utilize a strict seating plan that reflects cohort and family groupings. Students from the same family are permitted to sit together.
  - e. When space is available, students will be seated in the window seat away from the aisle.
  - f. As a reminder, no eating or drinking (except water) is allowed on the school bus. This is for the safety of all students on the school bus.
  - g. At the end of the school day, students must exit the school (at their designated exit) and go immediately to their school bus. Please do not delay so school buses stay on time.
  - h. Students that use transfer stations must not gather in groups and must go directly to their bus when it arrives.
3. School buses **will not** be transporting unregistered riders which includes after-school friends, other bus route students, relatives or others wishing to ride with a bus student. Alternate transportation will need to be arranged in those cases.
4. Middle and secondary students will be expected to wear masks while riding the school bus as directed by the Ministry of Education.

In order to keep students and staff as safe as possible, we will require bus students to follow the above rules very closely to avoid the risk of losing their busing privileges. These instructions may be revised throughout the school year. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping everyone safe. **Please contact the Transportation Department at 250-782-2106 if you have any questions.**

*PLEASE NOTE: Your child's school bus driver has the option to wear a non-surgical mask while driving their bus and is required to wear a face shield when the bus is stopped. Although this has become normal practice for some, please prepare your child for this change in their bus driver's attire.*

Thank-you, Jeff Lekstrom, SD59 Transportation Manager.

## Daily Health Check:

The following tool is to be used by parents and caregivers to complete prior to their child coming to school. Daily Health Check:			
1. Symptoms of Illness:		Does your child have any of the following symptoms?  CIRCLE ONE	
Fever	YES	NO	
Chills	YES	NO	
Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO	
Shortness of breath	YES	NO	
Sore throat	YES	NO	
Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO	
Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO	
Headache	YES	NO	
Fatigue	YES	NO	
Diarrhea	YES	NO	
Loss of appetite	YES	NO	
Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO	
Muscle aches	YES	NO	
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO	
Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO	
Abdominal pain	YES	NO	
Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	YES	NO	
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

If you answered “YES” to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.