

COVID-19 Transportation Guidelines

MRSD School Board Policies

[EEA Student Transportation Services](#)

[EEAB School Bus Scheduling and Routing](#)

Transportation to and from school will proceed during the COVID-19 pandemic while schools are in session. Measures taken on transportation shall follow the processes of school operations to the extent feasible to employ distancing, health and hygiene measures, screening and PPE. Coordination with the District Transportation Department and Business Manager will be ongoing to determine appropriate resources and capacity. Coordination with the District Office will be ongoing for specific or special needs.

Bus Drivers

- Transport vehicles (e.g., buses) that are used by the school, require that drivers practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff (e.g., hand hygiene, cloth face coverings).
 - Bus drivers shall wear PPE as designated under PPE section.
 - Bus drivers shall have access to hand sanitizer, as needed.
- All frequently touched surfaces on school buses will be [Clean and disinfected](#) at least daily and between use as much as possible.
- To clean and disinfect school buses or other transport vehicles, see guidance for [bus transit operators](#).

Distancing and Staggering Measures

Create distance between children on school buses to the extent possible (e.g., seat children one child per row, skip rows, etc.). While maximum spacing (6 feet) is observed in the school setting, minimum spacing (3 feet) may be promoted to the extent feasible, during shorter durations of exposure such as transport to and from school.

Buses will unload one at a time when arriving at school. When students unload from bus, students will be directed to exit bus one at a time with 3 feet of space between students. Markers shall be placed on the bus floor 3 feet apart to promote minimum spatial distancing while exiting the bus.

Screening

Bus drivers shall passively screen students as they enter the bus. Student illness will be logged into transportation rosters by exception. In recognition of transportation and safety measures, and the priority of the district to maintain student safety in all areas, buses will not remain stationed in the roadway for prolonged periods of time to assess students. Measures will be taken to isolate students who become ill on bus routes and as soon as students arrive at school to the extent feasible under the below guidance:

If...	Then...
Student is visibly ill upon entry into the bus	The bus driver should request the student remain at home, if age appropriate. If child is not of age to remain alone or student appears too ill to be unsupervised, bus driver should request that parent keep student at home. All efforts should be made to maintain dignity of student and family.
Student is visibly ill and parents are not present	Student should be seated close to the front and as separate from other students as feasible and the bus driver should radio dispatch in attempts to reach parents and notify school. Student should be immediately isolated upon arrival if parents or emergency contacts cannot be reached. All efforts should be made to maintain privacy and dignity of students.
Student becomes ill on bus route	Bus driver should provide student face mask if it is feasible for student to wear and contact dispatch to notify appropriate school and parents. Student should be immediately isolated upon arrival at school. School staff should report to bus to retrieve student and take to isolation space. All efforts should be made to maintain privacy and dignity of student.
Student is in distress during bus route	Follow existing emergency transportation procedures to contact EMS.