



COVID-19 UPDATE – AUGUST 17, 2020

STSYR is collaborating with YCDSB, YRDSB, York Region Public Health, School Vehicle Vendors and the Ministry of Education to mitigate health risks associated with COVID-19.

Preparing your Child for the School Bus

Each day, parents/guardians should assess their child's health before allowing them to access school vehicle transportation.

A COVID 19 assessment tool is available at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

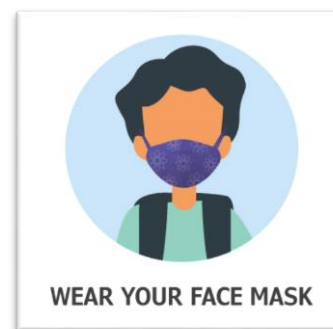
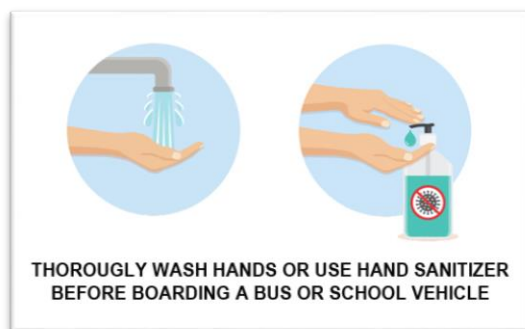
Students are asked to thoroughly wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer prior to boarding a bus or school vehicle.

Students in grades 4 to 12 must wear a face mask while waiting at the bus stop and while riding their bus unless they are unable due to medical reasons.

While students in kindergarten to grade 3 are not required to wear a face mask, it is strongly recommended they do so while waiting at the bus stop and while riding on the school bus, unless they are unable due to medical reasons.



**SICK STUDENTS
SHOULD NOT BOARD THE BUS**





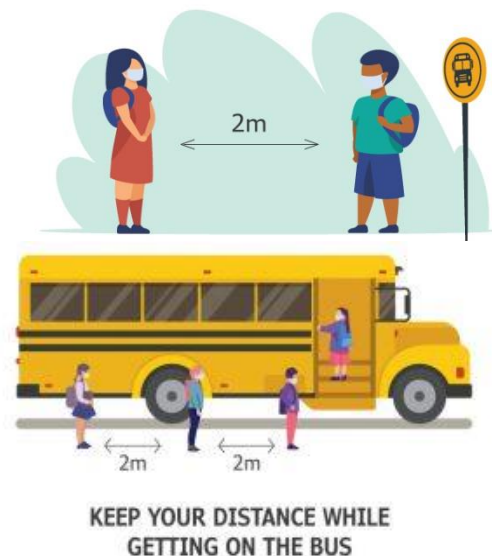
Waiting at a Bus Stop

While waiting at bus stops, students, parents/guardians are asked to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing between family groupings. Social distancing of 2 metres is recommended.

It is important that students arrive at their designated bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the posted pick up time.

Once the bus arrives, students should line up while maintaining social distancing.

No more than one student should access the entry stairs of the bus at a time. Students should proceed to their seat as quickly as possible.



School Bus Operation

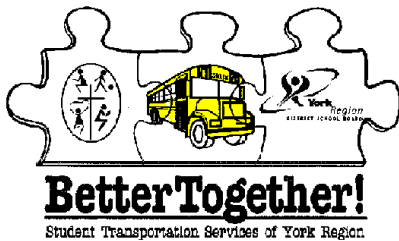
Where possible and depending on weather conditions, school buses/vans will operate with windows lowered to increase air ventilation.

All school vehicles will be assigned ridership capacities based on York Region Public Health recommendations.

Where possible, the seat located directly behind the driver will be cordoned off and left vacant.

School vehicle seating plans will be developed by School Administration during the first week of school, with students from the same household and/or class cohort seated together.

Each student must sit in their assigned seat to reduce the possibility of virus transmission. If necessary, the seating plan will facilitate contact tracing for York Region Public Health.



Medical masks and eye protection (i.e. face shields) have been provided for **all** school vehicle drivers.

Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gowns and gloves may be worn by drivers in certain circumstances.

Eye protection for drivers will not interfere with the safe operation of the school vehicle and is intended to protect drivers as students are boarding or exiting the vehicle.

Where applicable parents/guardians must wear a mask when securing or assisting their child in a school vehicle.

All drivers will perform a self-screening procedure before operating their vehicle each day.

School Arrival and Departure



Upon arriving at the school, drivers will assist students to disembark the bus from the front to the back, one seat at a time, while maintaining physical distance. School staff will then direct students to appropriate safe locations.

At dismissal time, school staff will direct students to maintain their class cohorts until they board a school vehicle.

School Vehicle Cleaning



In consultation with York Region Public Health, all high touch areas of school vehicles will be cleaned by the driver throughout the day. In addition, all vehicles will receive regular deep cleaning.



Contact Tracing

In the event an individual who may have been in contact with students on a bus, is identified as potentially having COVID-19, the School will contact York Region Public Health. The Public Health Unit will conduct contact tracing based on predetermined criteria and advise the school and affected individuals accordingly.

School Vehicle Delays

Parents/guardians are reminded to refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com each morning to determine if the school vehicle used by their child is delayed.

If you have questions regarding COVID-19, please contact York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (seven days a week) and 905-953-6478 (after hours).