

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROTOCOLS



BUS CAPACITY

School buses are shared spaces and strict physical distancing is not possible on the vehicles. Buses may be loaded up to capacity. Students will sit two to three per seat on a full sized bus. Seats will be assigned by school administrators and the seating plan must be followed. Siblings and cohorting students by grade will be considered when the seating plan is created.



BUS STOPS

Community bus stops are designed to pick up multiple students. Bus stops are located at parks, corners and community mailboxes where there is space for physical distancing. Bus stops are not supervised. Maintaining physical distancing at the bus stops is the responsibility of the students and parents/guardians. Families of students in grades 1-3 are encouraged to accompany their child to and from the bus stop.



VEHICLE CLEANING

Increased disinfecting protocols for frequently touched surfaces (for example, handrails and seatbacks) will be required at least twice daily. In between bus runs, special attention will be paid to the handrails, which students should hold onto for safety reasons, when entering and exiting the bus.



HAND HYGIENE

Transport Canada recommends students wash their hands before boarding the bus and when they get off the bus. Caregivers should incorporate hand washing into morning and afternoon routines before getting on and after getting off the bus. Parents/guardians should provide hand sanitizer to their child and remind them to use it before they board the bus.



FACE COVERINGS

Drivers will be supplied the same personal protective equipment (PPE) as school staff and use of the mask is mandatory while servicing students. Students will be required to meet the same mask requirements as in schools. HSTS strongly recommends the use of face masks by all students. Masks must be on prior to getting on the bus and at the bus stop if physical distancing is not possible.



HAVE A BACK UP PLAN

Students must not board the bus in the morning if they are sick. If a student falls ill during the school day, the school will contact the parent/guardian or caregiver to pick the student up. Students who are sick will not be allowed on board the bus in the afternoon.

