

## Bus Driver Safety Tips:

# PROTECTING STUDENTS, PROTECTING YOURSELF



**Buses are not designed for social distancing. Buses are enclosed environments with multiple high-touch surfaces, buses typically carry many students.**

The COVID-19 pandemic requires that school districts rethink how to transport students to and from school while keeping everyone—including drivers—as safe as possible. Here are several recommended strategies that, if used together, will reduce the spread of the virus.

- Everyone should wear a mask. Wearing a mask is especially important if social distancing is not possible
- Create as much distance as possible between children. If possible, seat one child per row or skip rows. Use tape to mark where students can sit and consider assigned seating
- If students are in cohorts throughout the day, seat these same students close to each other on the bus. (A cohort is students grouped for all activities throughout the day to limit the virus)
- Bus drivers should sit six feet from the nearest child. For additional protection, add a plexiglass barrier between the driver and students
- To reduce the number of students on a bus, encourage alternative modes of transportation for students with other options (e.g., walking, biking)
- Districts should consider modified class schedules to stagger arrival and departure times
- Creating multiple locations on school grounds for student pick-up and drop-off helps to limit large gatherings of students
- Open the bus windows, weather permitting, to increase fresh air circulation into the bus
- Install hand sanitizer dispensers on every bus. Students should sanitize their hands when entering and exiting
- Clean and disinfect school buses between routes daily, with more attention given to frequently touched areas. All buses should have sanitation and cleaning supplies

Source: [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#)