

Guidelines for School Buses

Prepared by the South Dakota Department of Health
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Practice Proper Hygiene

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before getting on the bus.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer again after reaching your destination.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth while on the bus.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Wash or sanitize hands immediately afterwards.
- Limit touching frequently touched surfaces such as hand railings, buttons, and other seats when possible. If you must touch them, use hand sanitizer or wash your hands as soon as you can.
- Clean/sanitize bus after each use.

Social Distance

- During travel, create as much space as possible between riders. CDC guidance for social distancing suggest 6 feet. If space is limited, encourage members of the same household to sit near one another rather than mixing households. Encourage riders to practice similar protocols as they wait in line for buses to arrive.
- Consider wearing a cloth face covering when physical distancing may be difficult.

Stay Home

- Anyone who is sick or has had a close contact to a person with COVID-19 should not use the bus and should stay home.

Protect People at Risk for Severe Illness

- Individuals who are at a higher risk to develop severe illness from COVID-19 should limit use of the bus system.

Use Ventilation

- Consider improving ventilation in the bus by opening windows or setting air to non-recirculation mode when possible.

How Can I Protect Myself?

- Consider asking bus passengers to avoid sitting within 6 feet of you.
- Avoid touching surfaces often touched by passengers.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, including those frequently touched only by the driver, such as buttons or the steering wheel.
- Use proper hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or sanitizing hands when soap and water aren't available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Consider wearing a cloth face covering to further reduce risk of transmission.

What Steps Can Employers Take?

- Provide measures to physically separate or force distance between the passengers and the driver, such as tape on the floor or a physical partition.
- Actively encourage sick drivers and students to stay home.
- Provide drivers, students, and parents with correct information about COVID-19 and how it spreads.
- Provide drivers with access to soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Provide gloves when necessary and provide training on how to use them properly.
- Provide disposable disinfectant wipes for use on frequently touched surfaces as well as a trash can to dispose of them.

Visit covid.sd.gov for more information