

3.0 Operations

3.01 Transportation



Create social distance between children on school buses where possible. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses at least twice daily

In order to maintain social distancing, district buses will need to operate at reduced capacity and students and the driver will need to utilize Personal Protective Equipment. The following are other safety actions that will be taken:

¹⁵ DOH-Responsible Parties should ensure that a distance of twelve feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in activities requires projecting the voice (e.g., singing), playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (e.g., participating in gym classes).

¹⁶ DOH-Responsible Parties should limit gathering in small spaces (e.g., elevators, supply rooms, faculty offices) by more than one individual at a time, unless all individuals in such space at the same time are wearing acceptable face coverings or are members of the same household. However, even with face coverings in use, occupancy should not exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the space, unless it is designed for use by a single occupant.

- Students should social distance on the bus whenever possible.¹⁷
- Students, school bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics will be required to wear face masks/coverings prior to boarding the bus unless they have been provided a medical exemption^{18 19}
- Students will be encouraged to find alternative modes of transportation if possible (e.g., walking or parent drop off) to reduce bus occupancy
- Weather permitting, drivers will increase bus ventilation by opening the top hatches of buses or opening windows
- School buses will not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier or district. School bus drivers, monitors and attendants must not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses²⁰
- Boarding children will occupy seats from back to front, where feasible
- Wheelchair school buses will be configured to ensure social distancing.²¹
- Siblings may sit together to increase capacity on the bus
- Seats will be marked with tape to show students where they may sit
- Field trips and other extracurricular activities requiring bus use will be suspended at this time
- Bus drivers will be required to conduct pre and post-trip inspections to include the cleaning of high use areas of the bus/high contact spots, (e.g., steering wheel, handles, seatbacks, etc.)²²
- Drivers will be required to complete a checklist after each cleaning, which should be forwarded to the district's Supervisor of Transportation
- Drivers will maintain a passenger log for each run to assist with contact tracing when needed
- Whenever possible, a single driver will be assigned to the same bus and same routes to minimize mixing
- The district will communicate with parents and students regarding the need to minimize the mixing of children from different households at bus stops and adhere to proper distancing when boarding school buses.
- The district will fulfill existing mandates regarding the safe and effective transportation of students who are homeless (McKinney-Vento), in foster care, have disabilities and attend non-public schools and charter schools.²³
- Transportation staff (drivers, monitors, attendants, mechanics and cleaners) will be provided initial training and provided periodic refreshers on the proper use of personal protective equipment and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19;²⁴

¹⁷ SED, pg 62 Students must social distance (six feet separation) on the bus;

¹⁸ SED, pg 60 Students who are able will be required to wear masks and social distance on the bus;

¹⁹ SED, pg 61 School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics must wear a face covering along with an optional face shield;

²⁰ SED, pg 60 School buses shall not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier or district. School bus drivers, monitors and attendants must not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses;

²¹ SED, pg 60 Wheelchair school buses must configure wheelchair placement to ensure social distancing of 6 feet.

²² SED, pg. 60 All buses (conforming and non-conforming to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Standards, as well as type A, C or D) which are used every day by districts and contract carriers must be cleaned/ disinfected once a day. High contact spots must be wiped down after the am and pm run depending upon the disinfection schedule. (For example, some buses might be cleaned between the am and pm runs while other buses may be cleaned/disinfected after the pm run);

²³ SED, pg. 59-60 School districts and other applicable schools are expected to fulfill existing mandates regarding the safe and effective transportation of students who are homeless (McKinney-Vento), in foster care, have disabilities and attend non-public schools and charter schools. Although meeting these obligations will certainly pose challenges, these expectations continue to be in place. Districts and other applicable schools should plan accordingly.

²⁴ SED, pg 61 Transportation staff (drivers, monitors, attendants, mechanics and cleaners) will be trained and provided periodic refreshers on the proper use of personal protective equipment and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19;

- The Transportation Department will be provided Personal Protective Equipment such as masks and gloves for drivers, monitors and attendants in buses as well as hand sanitizer for all staff in their transportation locations such as dispatch offices, employee lunch/break rooms and/or bus garages.²⁵
- Drivers, monitors and attendants who must have direct physical contact with a child will wear gloves.²⁶
- Students who do not have a mask will not be denied transportation and will be provided a mask.²⁷
- Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be forced to do so or denied transportation.²⁸

Transportation staff

- All staff will complete a self-health screening assessment before reporting to work.
- Staff should wear masks at all times except when eating or drinking.
- Hand sanitizer is not permitted on the bus, but will be available in the bus garage. Transportation staff are not to carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer on them while on the bus.
- Transportation staff will receive initial training and refresher trainings in the following areas: the proper use of personal protective equipment; proper social distancing; proper use of wearing gloves when having direct contact with students; and signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Transportation staff will wear masks at all times on the bus when there are students. Shields have also been provided. They can be worn when loading students or walking through the bus to talk to your students.
- Transportation staff will ensure that students are wearing masks while on the bus unless they are physically unable to do so or have a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask. Students with a disability which prevents them from wearing a mask will not be denied transportation or forced to wear a mask.
- Masks will be provided to students if they do not have one.
- Students will be trained on the proper use of personal protective equipment, social distancing, as well as the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Each bus is equipped with:

- Gloves
 - Cleaner/disinfectant/wipes
 - Paper towels
 - Extra trash bags
 - Masks for students
- All buses must be disinfected and wiped down after each shift. All supplies used should be bagged and put in the dumpster. Each bus will be treated with the electrostatic air cleaner after

²⁵ SED, pg 61 Transportation departments/carriers will need to provide Personal Protective Equipment such as masks and gloves for drivers, monitors and attendants in buses as well as hand sanitizer for all staff in their transportation locations such as dispatch offices, employee lunch/break rooms and/or bus garages.

²⁶ SED, pg 61 Drivers, monitors and attendants who must have direct physical contact with a child must wear gloves.

²⁷ SED, pg 61 Students who do not have a mask can NOT be denied transportation;

²⁸ SED, pg 61 Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be forced to do so or denied transportation.

each shift (minimum two times daily).

- A letter to families with specific transportation information will be sent in late August.
- In summary,
 - All buses will be prepared and sanitized for their students.
 - All buses will operate each day with all windows open for ventilation.
 - The two front seats behind the driver will not be used and will be marked as such.
 - All seats are marked with numbers over them (similar to airplanes). Student seats are marked A, B,C,D. There is an "x" to mark the seating.
 - Students will be assigned seats. Siblings will be seated together.
 - Changing buses will NOT be permitted.
 - Attendance on the bus will be taken daily for contact tracing purposes.

In closing, the Bedford Central School District will fulfil its obligations to transport nonpublic, parochial, private schools or students whose Individualized Education Program have placed them out of the district and whose schools are meeting and conducting in-person session education when/if the Bedford Central School District is not.