

Transportation Health Plan

Last updated August 3, 2021

The Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) Transportation Services Department will implement the following measures in alignment with ACPS School Board Policy and the Department of Education (DOE) guidelines. This is to keep students and staff as safe as possible while using ACPS bus transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, Transportation Services believes the partnership between parents, drivers, assistants, and school staff will be essential to keeping our students and staff safe.

Communication and Education

ACPS will provide communication and education to families prior to the start of school and throughout the school year about changes in transportation policies, practices, and expectations. ACPS needs the support of families to ensure social distancing at the bus stop prior to the arrival of the bus; proper health screening at home prior to boarding; and reinforcing expectations for student behavior while on the bus.

Health Screenings Prior to Boarding

It is the parent/caregiver's responsibility to conduct a health screening of their child prior to placing them on the bus. If the child is symptomatic or has been exposed to an individual who has COVID-19, they should remain at home and not board a bus.

[include link to where screen checklist our on the website]

Hand Sanitizer

All riders will sanitize their hands each time they board and exit the bus. To support this practice, each bus will have an adequate supply of sanitizer, which will be located in the seat directly behind the driver.

Boarding Procedures

Students and other riders will have assigned seats. This will be helpful for contact tracing and limits the number of exposures if a student tests positive.

Face Coverings

The driver and all riders will be required to wear face coverings while on the bus. A supply of masks will be on each bus in the event a student forgets theirs. Compliance with this requirement

ensures the safety of other riders. If a student does not comply with this requirement, transportation will not be provided.

Ventilation

All busses will have HEPA filters installed near the ceiling a few rows behind the driver. These filters will remove dust, pollen, and virus particles from the air. The filters will be turned on when the windows are closed. Windows on busses without air conditioning will be open during warm weather and the HEPA filter will be turned off. When the weather is cold, the windows will be closed and the HEPA filter will be turned on. Buses with air conditioning will have the windows closed at all times, and the HEPA filter will be turned on.

When windows are down or open slightly on the bus, air from outside the bus is pulled in and the air on the inside is circulated out. There is no way to measure the air exchange rate in this situation but more importantly, there is no purification process with simple air circulation. However, the air inside busses when the windows are up and the HEPA filter turned on is pulled into the HEPA filter and is cleaned down to 0.3 micron (the size of most airborne pathogens). The filter has a 99.99% efficiency. This means the air inside a bus with the windows up is cleaner than fresh air coming into the bus from the windows.

The reason we are stating that the filter should be turned off if the windows are down and on when the windows are up twofold;

1. Most of our fleet has AC and are able to have the windows closed. When the windows are down, air does not flow through the filter and deposit cleaned air effectively.
2. We still have units that are not air conditioned and will require the windows to be down during warm weather. Additionally, outside air contains dust and particulates that can cause the filter to clog prematurely preventing the system from working efficiently and, drive replacement filters to be replaced more often at a cost of \$300 per unit. Many of our buses travel back roads which are not paved. The dust generated would significantly shorten the life of the unit

Disinfection

Seats and handrails will be disinfected once each day. Drivers will use disinfectant products that are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for effective use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Driver Training

All drivers and aides will be trained on all health and safety protocols and practices.

Note: These guidelines may not apply to Students with Disabilities whose IEP requires transportation accommodations. Transportation Services will work with families and the Special

Education Department to provide these accommodations. Transportation aides who must work in close proximity to students who are unable to wear a face covering will wear a medical grade mask and face shield.