



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE – AUG 4, 2020

SEPTEMBER START PLANNING AND SAFETY CHANGES

INTRODUCTION

Nathanael Spence

- 13 years in student transportation
- Started as a School Bus Driver in 2007
- Obtained DMV 19-A Examiner Status and School Bus Driver Instructor Certifications in 2010.
Also holds certifications in: NYDOT Accident Investigation
FDOT Drug & Alc Procedures
NYS DOT Drug & Alc Procedures
NYS 6 Hour PIRP Instructor
Smith System Instructor
Ka Band / Lidar Speed Radar Use
- Worked as Safety Director for a 300 bus 500 employee school bus contractor for 8 years.
- Performed safety consulting with my own company for over 2 years. Traveled NYS and the Northeast improving school transportation safety.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR COVID-19 RESTART

Transportation built our guidelines based upon the recommendations put forth by
USCDC, NYSDOT, NYSED, NYDOH and FMCSA
STUDENT AND STAFF HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

- All transportation staff; school bus monitors, school bus drivers, Royal Coach Lines management & office staff and Transportation Department staff including safety contractors will be required to complete the Somers CSD wellness survey before reporting to work. This wellness check ensures the staff member is responsible for their own health and temperature checks.
- Any transportation staff member with an elevated temperature, will be not be allowed to proceed to work. Staff that fail the health and temperature check are required to follow up with their personnel physician. A physician note indicating the employee is clear to work around school aged children is required before reporting back to work.
- The students Parent or Guardian must perform a wellness check of each child they are sending to school; this check must be complete before allowing their child to board the bus. Part of this wellness check must be a temperature check.

WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION DOING FOR COVID-19 IN SEPTEMBER

RE-ENTRY PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER RESTART

- School Bus Drivers & School Bus Monitor staff **MUST** wear a mask and non latex gloves onboard the bus at all times. PPE must be worn using universal precautions. A staff training video and flyers will be implemented to show all processes visually to ensure proper understanding and implementation.
- Students will be required to wear face masks before boarding the bus and for the duration of the ride to school.
- Students will load buses aft to forward utilizing one seat per student, two students per row until the front of the bus is filled. Siblings attending the same school will sit together immediately in order to optimize seating capacity. The seat directly behind the driver is to remain empty. Once the aft to forward of the bus is filled one student per seat, students will then sit two to a seat, again loading aft to forward not sitting more than two per seat. Again, students sitting two per seat **MUST** have a face mask on. Students will be given an assigned seat, this is to assist with contact tracing should it be necessary. This method allows us to properly socially distance a school vehicle and still load to a somewhat feasible capacity when needed. Routes will be socially distanced as much as physically possible. Students sitting two per seat to be limited to under 15 minutes when possible. A video and flyer will be created to distribute to parents and students indicating the new socially distancing methods.

WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION DOING FOR COVID-19 IN SEPTEMBER

RE-ENTRY PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER RESTART (CONTINUED)

PLEASE NOTE: The 2 students per seat model will **ONLY** be used in situations where bus capacity is over 21 students. Knowing what we know about our tentative schedule we should not need to do this unless there is a necessity to vacate the schools quickly. We also anticipate that some parents may change their mind about busing and not bring their own child/ren to school thus adding more capacity to a route than planned.

Please know your child's safety and security are of the utmost importance and we are working the best we can to reduce capacity of runs.

- Seats not available for student or staff seating will be marked with red tape.
- Students will disembark at schools from the forward to the aft of the bus.
- School Bus Drivers will have a clipboard with a student attendance roster for each route. Drivers will check off the students riding their bus when arriving at the school. This is to assist with contact tracing should it be necessary.
- Royal Coach Lines will sanitize buses and vans following their morning and afternoon routes. They will use the approved cleaning agents as prescribed by the New York State Department of Health. A contractor accountability log will be required for each bus. Anytime a bus is cleaned and/or sanitized it must be logged.

SEPTEMBER SAFETY UPGRADES

-- On Site School Bus Driver Record Monitoring

NYS DMV License Event Notification System. Immediate notifications of license infractions and driver disqualifications.

Before this we relied upon Royal Coach to monitor their drivers and report issues.

-- Somers School Bus Driver Points System

Points system to hold the drivers of Royal Coach accountable for their actions.

Drivers over a set level of points will be DISQUALIFIED to drive for the

Somers Central School District.

Before this a driver could continue to drive with multiple in-house safety infractions.

SEPTEMBER SAFETY UPGRADES

-- Road Safety Observations

I will be traveling the streets of the district during bus times to ensure drivers are operating responsibly and respectfully. I am certified to operate Ka band speed radar and lidar devices.

Please note that I use my personal vehicles for road supervision. Magnets were purchased to indicate a Transportation Safety Vehicle is following buses or sitting on the side of the street observing.

-- On Site Alcohol Monitoring

Royal Coach Lines has invested in a DOT certified breathalyzer system to ensure proper reasonable suspicion testing can be performed. I will also be trained on the certified use of this product.

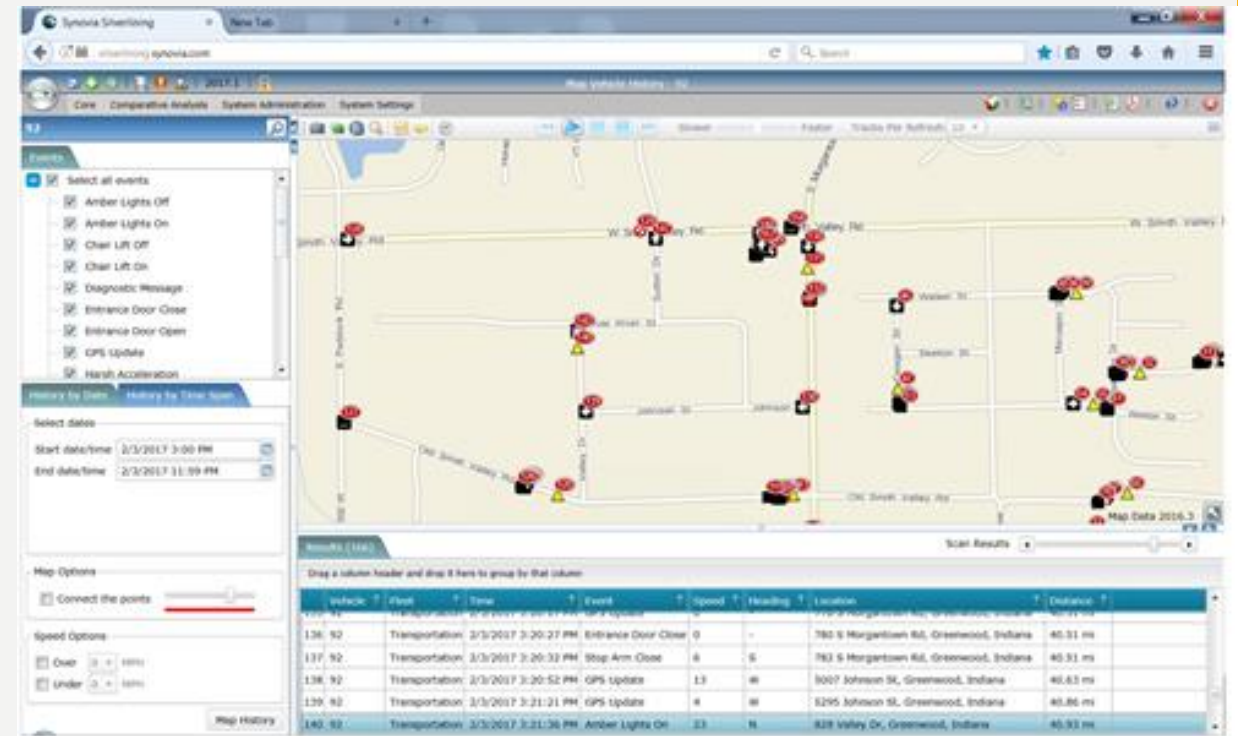
SEPTEMBER SAFETY UPGRADES

-- LIVE School Bus GPS Monitoring!

Once installed the Transportation Department can track any of the school buses used by Royal Coach Lines at our school district.

Location updated every 30 seconds UNLESS there is a safety violation.

This system tracks: vehicle location, vehicle speed, abrupt braking, abrupt acceleration, brake application, turn signal application, amber and red light activation, and excess idle time



SEPTEMBER SAFETY UPGRADES

WHERE IS THE BUS?!



Here Comes the Bus[®]

Don't ask. Know.

From Synovia Solutions™

SEPTEMBER SAFETY UPGRADES



Extended
School Bus
Stop Arm
PILOT
Program

THANK YOU

- I look forward to working with the parents, teachers, administrators and staff of the school district and Royal Coach Lines to improve the transportation safety of our school district.
- My job is to ensure your child is safe and secure. If you ever have any concerns, questions, or just want to talk about transportation safety please call me at 914-277-2442 or e-mail me at nspence@somersschools.org