

## **Transportation**

WAJ will conduct transportation activities that are consistent with state-issued public transit guidance and NYSED School Reopening guidelines. Students and school staff must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated) and should maintain appropriate social distancing to the extent practicable. If conditions warrant, the driver may remove his/her mask when wearing one impedes the driver's ability to properly operate the vehicle.

While students will be spaced apart to the extent possible, it is impractical to maintain six foot social distance on school buses. Therefore, students be required to wear masks at all times and social distance on the bus to the extent practicable. Members of the same household may be seated together. Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to drop off or walk students to school to reduce density on buses if possible. Bus routes, parent drop-off location and times and required pre-boarding activities will be identified and shared with parents before the start of school, within welcome back documents and via other communications.

Before a child is allowed to board a school bus, the student must present an attestation form (slip) filled out by the parent/guardian that guarantees that they have screened their child(ren) that morning and that their child(ren) is COVID symptom free and does not have a temperature of 100°F or higher. Students will not be allowed to be transported without the proper form or if the child is presenting symptoms of COVID-19.

All students will need to have a signed attestation slip before being allowed to enter the building. The slip, along with the procedure and directions for completing it will be provided in welcome back packets before school starts and will be provided online as well.

All buses that are used every day by districts and contract carriers will be cleaned/ disinfected at least once a day. High contact spots will be wiped down after the morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) run depending upon the disinfection schedule.

School buses shall not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier and district.

### **School Bus Staff**

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics are required to perform a self-health assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving at work. If personnel are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they will notify their employer as per the reporting policies and seek medical attention.

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics must wear a face covering.

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.

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

All students are required to wear face coverings while on the bus to the extent possible, students will not be denied transportation if they do not have a mask, drivers will be allowed to provide a mask to students who need one.

Members of the same family will be allowed to sit together on the bus. All students on the bus will be socially distanced to the extent possible, including students who use wheelchairs. Modified routing schedules will be used to allow for reduced seating capacity on buses. To further help reduce busing needs and capacities, parents are encouraged to transport their students or walk them to school.

Buses will be cleaned after morning and afternoon runs and will be sanitized between runs using an electrostatic sprayer.

When weather conditions permit, school buses should transport passengers with roof hatches or windows slightly opened to provide air flow.

The following health and safety protocols have been implemented:

The driver, monitor, and attendant may wear gloves if they choose to do so but are not required unless they must be in physical contact with students.

Transportation staff should be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water before and after AM and PM runs to keep healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections from one person to the next. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:

- touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- touch a contaminated surface or objects
- blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects

When students embark and disembark the bus, they should follow social distancing protocols. This will increase the time required to load and unload buses at schools in the morning and afternoon. Schools should consider staggered arrival and departure times to ensure social distancing.

Routes have been modified where possible to allow for social distancing to the extent practical, while maximizing routing efficiencies.