

Bus Transportation SD68 2020 – 21

Welcome back to the school bus.

COVID-19 has created many challenges for the upcoming school year. To promote physical distancing, we would like to encourage all families to explore alternative options for getting their children to and from school. However, we realize that alternative options are not available for all families. We are working diligently to ensure our buses are safe for all riders by following health and safety guidelines from the Province of BC and the BCCDC.

Please share the following with children who plan on riding the bus:

BUSING PROCEDURES

All bus schedules will be as posted on the NLPS website <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/students-parents/transportation/>

All COVID-19 health and safety guidelines will always be followed.

All students are to maintain physical distancing (two meters is recommended) when lining up to get on the bus and when exiting the bus.

Strategies to ensure safety on buses

- Have students sit in their own seat wherever possible, students from the same household can share seats if space is limited
- Should bussing demand exceed the above an overload bus is on standby, as a temporary measure, to ensure students have a ride to school.
- If an overload occurs, Information regarding the overload would be reviewed and options for provision of service would be considered including, sitting more than one student per seat, utilization of space on alternate routes, consolidating routes or continuation of second bus.

Elementary students are not required to wear masks. There are challenges around younger children touching their faces, inability to adjust masks correctly or to properly wear a mask. Parents may choose to have their elementary student wear masks while on the bus. Same will apply to special needs riders of all ages.

High School students are required to wear masks on the bus. There may be medical exceptions to this rule, parents must notify transportation if that is the case at FA-DispatchCoordinator@sd68.bc.ca

Students must be registered to ride the bus, information on registration available at <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/students-parents/transportation/transportation/> and issued a Z-Pass.

Z-PASS cards are always to be used. Passes will be distributed starting the first full week of school. It is important that we always track our riders but particularly during this time of pandemic. For the first week or so while the passes are being distributed, the drivers will record name(s) on all routes, those lists will be submitted daily to the office for contact tracing.

All buses are equipped with video cameras and anyone unwilling to comply with these protocols will be subject to loss of busing privileges.

Driver Safety

To ensure student safety and the safety of our drivers, transparent curtains have been installed on all buses to isolate the drivers when students are loading and unloading. It has been designed to be pulled back when travelling so it will not hamper the driver's vision of rear view and outside mirrors, etc.

Transporting students from home to school:

When loading on the bus in the morning students will load back to front, one per seat unless they are siblings or from the same household(bubble). When unloading at the school students will unload front to back. Each row stays seated until the row in front is safely clear. Students need to scan their Z-pass cards getting on and when exiting the bus at the school.

When the bus is empty the driver will check for any items left behind and wipe down all high touch surfaces such as seats, handrails, seatbelts etc. Any items left on the bus will be taken into the school's lost and found.

Transporting students from school to home:

Same procedures will apply loading back to front. Once the school year is established and the driver knows the students and stops, students will then load by stop with the last stop loading first and the first stop loading last. Students need to scan their ZPASS cards getting on and when exiting the bus at their stop.

In previous years we have allowed friends who are not registered bus students, and with parental permission, to take the bus a friend. Due to lowered capacity, school buses **will not** be accepting unregistered riders.

For student safety, the following procedures MUST be followed:

If your child is not feeling well, please do not send them to school.

Procedures for:

Sick student at bus stop:

If a student at a bus stop shows visible signs of being ill (runny nose, coughing etc.), the following steps will be taken:

- The bus driver will radio dispatch office informing staff of student name and symptoms
- Office staff will contact the family and/or school to request that someone go out and deal with the student.
- The bus will remain at the bus stop until the matter has been resolved to ensure student safety

Sick student on bus:

If a student has visible signs of being ill (runny nose, coughing etc.), the follow steps will be taken:

- The bus driver will radio office informing staff of student name and symptoms
- Office staff will contact the family and/or school to inform them off ill student.
- Student will be segregated on bus (as much as possible) keeping all other students 2 meters apart.
- Student will be offered a mask from bus pandemic kit.

- Student will be delivered to school and asked to wait on the bus until all other student have off-loaded the bus.
- School staff to receive student
- If bus route is not complete, a spare bus (if practicable) will be delivered to complete route.
- Bus to be thoroughly cleaned

Student(s) being left at bus stop due to capacity issues:

- It is not expected that students will be unable to be provided a ride to school due capacity issues
- Overload buses are on standby and will be dispatched to address capacity issues
- Should an extreme situation occur, and no overload bus is available, the student will be accommodated by placing more than one student per seat

We thank you for making every effort to explore alternative transportation options so that we may be able to service students most in need.

Thank you

David Prevost



Dave Prevost | Transportation Manager
Direct 250 741 5246 | Office 250 741-5214 | Fax 250 741 5301

395 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6 | www.sd68.bc.ca