

# Transportation

**In-Person Learning Resources for Parents and Caregivers at Chicago Public Schools** — A Resource Created by Healthy Schools Campaign for Parents and Caregivers in Chicago Public Schools

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**HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
CAMPAIGN**

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# Transportation

Before we talk about in-school safety, we must first look at how our students are getting to school. Transportation to and from school must be as safe as the building environment for school reopenings to succeed.

## ***What Experts Say***

Some of the most effective ways to control the spread of COVID-19 on the way to and from school include:

- Mask wearing by all people on school buses and public transportation, including students and drivers
- Windows on school buses should be cracked open at least 3 inches
- Plexiglass barriers between students and the driver when possible
- Reduced number of students on each school bus to allow for physical distancing
- Unchanging bus seating assignments that require siblings to sit with each other
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting protocol on school buses
- Hand sanitizer available on school buses
- Hand washing immediately after leaving public transportation

## ***What CPS Says***

Students must wear cloth face coverings while on the school bus. School bus aides will wear appropriate PPE and offer students hand sanitizer before and after boarding the school bus. Students will sit by themselves or only with a sibling and be spaced to ensure proper physical distancing. The CPS reopening plan does not state what communication, if any, will be shared if someone on the school bus contracts COVID-19.

## ***Parents and Caregivers Should Know***

CPS has planned infection control strategies for school transportation that align with public health experts' best practices. Parents and caregivers should also ask questions about cleaning protocol and air circulation on buses and contact tracing based on bus assignments. Some questions to ask your school leaders on the topic of transportation include:

- Will I be contacted if someone, including the bus driver or another adult, who is on my child's school bus contracts COVID-19?
- Will my child be required to quarantine for 10 days if they rode the same school bus as someone who has tested positive?
- How will masks on school buses be enforced without distracting the bus driver?
- How frequently will the school bus be cleaned and what cleaning procedures will be followed?
- Will all school bus windows be open during the entirety of the ride throughout the school year, even cold months?
- How will CPS ensure protocols are being followed by the independent school bus companies?
- How will CPS ensure that enough buses will be available to support physical distancing?

*The best practices in this document are based on guidelines provided by the Harvard [T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).*