



## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE CONSORTIUM OF GREY-BRUCE

Bluewater District School Board  
Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board

### General Information

The Ministry of Education announced on July 30<sup>th</sup> that students in Grey-Bruce counties will return to school full cohort in September. School bus resources, including vehicles and drivers, are not available to provide physical distancing on a school bus. This document describes the enhanced PPE and disinfection protocols that are being implemented to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus. Parents are responsible for deciding what form of transportation is best for their child.

Students registered at a school, and eligible for transportation, will continue to be automatically assigned to a bus route. There will be no changes to school bus registration procedures because of COVID-19. Parents requiring changes to their child's bus arrangements should contact the school with those changes. The Consortium receives all student information and requests from the school. The Consortium procedures can be found on its website at [www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca](http://www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca) Parents will find contact information of the route planner for their area at [www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca](http://www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca) and are encouraged to contact the planner with any transportation questions they may have.

### Finding Bus Stop Location and Time

On August 25, 2020 parents will be able to gain access to their child's school bus information for the 2020-2021 school year. The internet address is [www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca](http://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca) Once on the site click on Parent Portal and follow the instructions. To access this site for the first time you will need the student's Ontario Education Number (OEN). This number is in the format of 123-456-789 and is located on the top of the student report card. That number, along with the student's school and student's address will allow you to get access to all bus route details. If you do not have the OEN, please contact your school to obtain this number.

Students new to the school system do not yet have an OEN, i.e. junior kindergarten students in their first year of school. Bus operators will contact families of junior kindergarten students to share bus stop locations and times. If you do not receive a call by September 1<sup>st</sup> please call the Consortium at 519-364-5820 to ask for this information.

In this system is a Delays & Cancellations tool. Parents are encouraged to subscribe to alerts from this tool to receive an email or text if the bus is running late or cancelled on a snow day. There is no requirement for an OEN to subscribe to this tool so Junior Kindergarten parents may subscribe here now.



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### Parent Information

- Physical distancing on a school bus is not possible for a full cohort return to school. Parents are asked to educate their children to;
  - Not sit in the seat directly behind the bus driver.
  - Sit together with their siblings.
  - If they have no siblings, load the bus one student per seat until all seats are occupied by a student. Try to sit near students in your class.
  - Once all bus seats are occupied by one student, start adding additional students to each seat until seats all have 2 students, then 3 students or until all students have been picked up.
  - Buses will have row numbers assigned visibly in the bus. Students are asked to remember what row they sit in for contact tracing purposes. Students should sit in the same seat each day if possible.
- At the bus stop, all parents and students are asked to maintain a 2-metre physical distance.
- Students are expected to complete a self-assessment prior to boarding the school bus. Self-assessment instructions can be found in each school board's return to school protocols on the board web pages.
- Students who have symptoms associated with COVID-19 or who believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 should not be taking student transportation and should remain at home. They should be taken to an assessment centre for testing.
- If a student is displaying symptoms such as coughing, fever or other obvious signs of an illness, they will not be allowed to board the bus if the parent is present or the student is age appropriate. Young students with no parent present will be allowed to board the bus and be transported to school. The bus operator will advise the school of the situation and have the school follow its protocols. It is important for parents to ensure a health assessment is completed each morning to prevent these situations.
- Students should be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water before leaving home, upon their arrival at school, when they are leaving school and when they arrive at home.
- All students from Gr. 4 to Gr. 12 will be required to wear a face mask at all times while on a school vehicle. Students from JK to Gr. 3 are highly encouraged to wear a mask.
- Any student that cannot wear a mask due to a medical or other special need that prevents masking must contact their school to get an exemption.
- Students must follow the direction of the driver when boarding the bus. Students are reminded to refrain from touching the seats as they walk to the seat.



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### Driver Information

- School bus drivers must complete a COVID-19 self-assessment daily.
- Drivers should not report to work if they have symptoms associated with COVID-19 or if they believe they have been exposed to COVID-19. They should report to an assessment centre for testing.
- All bus drivers will be required to wear a facemask, or face covering, while on the school bus. Medical or other special exemptions will be permitted.
- Students who develop symptoms at school will not take the school bus home. Administrators will contact parents/guardians to pick up their child at school.
- Maintain physical distancing between students on school vehicles where possible. Post seat numbers visibly on the bus so students can take note of the seat they are in. This will aid in contact tracing.
- The seat directly behind the school bus driver will not be used by students. Windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.
- Bus drivers should wash their hands often, including before and after completing trips. Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus for drivers to use after any direct contact with students or assistive devices such as wheelchairs.
- Students should be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water before leaving home, upon their arrival at school, when they are leaving school and when they arrive at home
- If symptoms arise after completing a trip, the driver must notify their employer immediately so proper precautions can be taken. The Bus Operator will notify the consortium immediately if any driver has symptoms and ensure the driver does not return to work until they have tested negative for COVID-19.
- Bus drivers will receive the required training on the health and safety measures to ensure the measures are understood, followed and enforced.
- The bus operator will provide training to all bus operator staff, prior to September 8<sup>th</sup>, on its own return to school protocols as well as those of the school boards.



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### Bus Cleaning

- Bus interior surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant that has a DIN# and is on the “Health Canada list of disinfectants with evidence for use against COVID-19”  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>.
- Bus operators will document their disinfection protocol, including product and application details. Disinfection will be completed by bus operator staff, which may include driver, maintenance staff or other bus operator staff as appropriate.
- Bus operator staff responsible for the disinfection of the bus will be provided with all personal protective equipment as required by the operator’s health and safety protocol, disposable cloths, paper towels and absorbent materials, waste disposal bags, cleaning agents and disinfectants as appropriate for their disinfection protocol.
- All cleaning products will be applied according to the directions on the label and per the manufacturer’s application guidelines.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned at the end of the morning runs and at the end of the day. High touch surfaces will include the;
  - 1) inside hand railing
  - 2) back of the seat back
  - 3) top of the seatback
  - 4) front of the seatback
  - 5) seat bench
  - 6) bus walls below the window.

All high touch surfaces will be disinfected at the end of the AM run. High touch surfaces #1 to #3 will be cleaned after the PM run. The driver’s seat and controls will be disinfected after each run.

- Bus operator staff are to dispose of soiled clothes, disposable gloves and any other items in contact with contaminated surfaces in a waste disposal bag. The bag is to be sealed and discarded in a lined trash bin located outside of the bus after each disinfection.
- Reusable cloths should be stored in a sealed bag off the bus until they can be laundered.
- Gloves, gowns and face shields will be provided to school bus drivers, school bus monitors and student aides for use in emergency situations. The choice of PPE should not interfere with the driver’s ability to access vehicle controls, or hinder or distort the driver’s view.