

# Marin County Home-to-School Transportation Guidelines

## A Public Health Guided Return to Site-Based Classroom Instruction

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**Dr. Matt Willis, Marin County Public Health Officer and  
Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools**

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The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for Marin County school transportation providers and Marin County educational institutions - including public, private, independent and parochial TK-12 schools -- to develop and implement student transportation systems needed to support site-based classroom instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. The evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic requires the need to rethink common protocols and practices in the school transportation industry, and these guidelines could change as the situation evolves. These guidelines apply to home-to-school transportation services (yellow bus) and subcontracted services intended solely for the purposes of transporting students to and from school. This guidance does not apply to student transportation provided by public transportation services (transit).

In order to transport students to and from school during the COVID-19 pandemic as safely as possible, transportation agencies shall work with schools and districts to ensure health and safety protocols are in place that will include as a minimum, the following requirements;

1. Health screening for students is conducted as advised and updated by Public Health. Parents, caregivers, or guardians should be strongly encouraged to monitor students for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening, and drivers and adult staff should conduct daily health screening self-assessment.
2. Physical distancing of six feet is maintained between adults and between adults and students, where practicable while waiting, boarding, riding, and exiting; three feet distance is permissible between students where requirements herein are in practice except for assigned seating described in guideline #3 below.
3. While riding the bus there will be no more than two students per bench seat, with buses at approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of rated capacity. Riders shall have an assigned seat, with attendance checked at the school site for morning routes, before students unload; and before the bus departs for afternoon routes. In transporting students to school, buses should be filled first with

one student per bench seat, with a second rider added per bench seat as the bus fills. The corresponding process should be followed for exiting the bus during transportation home. Children from the same household should be seated together.

4. If feasible, the row directly behind the driver will be left open to support physical distancing between the driver and students.
5. Face Coverings: All drivers, adults and students are required to wear face coverings while waiting, boarding, riding or exiting, unless there is a medical or behavioral contraindication. Students from grades TK - 2 should be supported and taught how to wear face coverings properly.
6. Students should sit forward facing and minimize talking while riding.
7. Drivers and students should be instructed to wash hands at home immediately before departing, and may use hand sanitizer prior to boarding if feasible.
8. Drivers should avoid using the recirculated air option for the vehicle's ventilation during passenger transport; use the vehicle's vents and windows to the maximum extent possible, to bring in fresh outside air, even in cold or inclement weather.
9. Transportation provider must perform cleaning in compliance with [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) guidance for non-emergency vehicles between uses.
10. Transportation provider must develop protocols, actions, and template communications for the following COVID-19 related scenarios ([Marin County Public Health Protocols & Communication Templates for each scenario](#)):
  - a. A student, driver, or staff member either exhibits cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, loss of smell or taste, OR exhibits 2 or more COVID-19 symptoms (including a temp of 100.4 or above).
  - b. A family member or someone in close contact with a student, driver or staff member test positive for COVID-19.
  - c. A student, staff member or driver tests positive for COVID-19. Fully vaccinated school staff or students with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine following an exposure.
  - d. A student, staff member or driver tests negative for COVID-19 after symptoms or confirmed close contact.
11. Each School Transportation provider will develop and implement a [School Transportation Provider Specific Protection Plan](#) that will describe in detail how each of the above guidelines will be implemented.
12. All Public, private, independent and parochial schools should work with families to encourage students to walk and/or bike to school and to coordinate with Marin [Safe Routes to School Marin County](#) to develop strategies to maximize these opportunities.