

Students with food allergies will be closely monitored in each building. Working with the school nurse and building administration, separated areas will be identified and designated for students with severe food allergies.

Hand hygiene will be promoted through training of students and staff. In addition, proper signage will be placed throughout the buildings to serve as reminders and to communicate expectations. Rules regarding the sharing of food/beverages will be discouraged through training, prompts, and reminders by staff during meal time. Per guidelines, six (6) feet of social distancing will be maintained while students are eating. All Child Nutrition requirements will be met through the food service operation.

Meals Offsite

Meals will be available to all students regardless of whether students are learning in person or remotely. For students at home, families will have the ability to pick up breakfast and lunch in person. For students who are home and cannot pick up breakfast and lunch, a delivery option may be available by making arrangements with the district. If this is needed, please contact Brian Carey, Business Administrator, at bcarey@schodack.k12.ny.us or (518) 732-2297.

Transportation

The Schodack Central School District 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.

Students who are able will be required to wear masks and social distance on the bus to the extent practicable; however, students whose physical or mental health would be impaired are not required to wear a face covering, but must be appropriately socially distanced. Members of the same household may be seated within six (6) feet of each other and will be required to sit together. Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to drop off or walk students to school to reduce density on buses.

All high-touch areas on buses will be cleaned/disinfected upon completion of each individual bus run to each school building. As buses finish each run in the morning and again in the afternoon, they will be cleaned/disinfected.

School buses shall not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the district. School bus drivers, monitors and attendants must not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses.

Wheelchair school buses will configure wheelchair placement to ensure social distancing of six (6) feet.

Whether school is in session remotely or otherwise, pupil transportation will be provided to nonpublic, parochial, private, charter schools or students whose Individualized Education Plans have placed them out-of-district whose schools are meeting for in-person sessions.

All students are entitled to transportation by the district to the extent required by law. Transportation departments do not have the ability or the right to deny transportation for children who are in foster care, homeless or attend private or charter schools. Parents who may have missed the due date to request out-of-district transportation due to a reasonable excuse may file a 310 appeal with the Commissioner of Education.

Proper behavior on buses will be essential in order to maintain the health and safety of all passengers. Students will be expected to comply with all bus safety rules and regulations.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Refer to the cleaning standard operating procedures guidance for further information.

- Buses and other transportation vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected daily (focus on high touch areas) and in between runs if scheduled for multiple routes. At the end of morning and afternoon runs cleaning and disinfecting of the entire bus will occur.
- *Daily Cleaning*
 - All trash removed
 - Floors swept and dust mopped
 - Walls and windows cleaned
- *High Touch Surfaces*
 - Bus seats and seat backs
 - Seat belts
 - Door handles, handrails
 - Driver operator area
- Cleaning and disinfecting products approved by the EPA will be used according to instructions.
- Eating and drinking will be prohibited on the bus.
- Buses will be inspected to ensure cleaning/disinfecting protocols are followed.
- All cleanings/inspections will be documented (via trackable log).

Bus protocols for a reported case of Covid-19 on a school bus

- Rhonda Greenway, Transportation Supervisor, will be notified, the district will then notify building administration and a plan will be implemented to contact parents of students on that bus.
- After a report of COVID-19, the bus will be taken out of service for 24 hours before it can be used again.
 - The bus will be disinfected following CDC guidelines.

Students Utilizing District Transportation

- As was outlined in the Health and Safety section of this guidance, all parents/guardians will be required to ensure their child/children are not experiencing any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and do not have a fever of 100 degrees or more prior to them boarding district transportation.
- Students must wear a face covering on a school bus if they are physically able. Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering, including students where such covering would impair their physical health or mental health are not subject to the required use of a face covering. This will require a note from a health care provider.
- Students must social distance on the bus to the fullest extent possible.

- Students who do not have a face covering can NOT be denied transportation.
- Students who do not have face coverings must be provided one by the district.
- Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a face covering will not be compelled to do so or denied transportation.

Training (Office Personnel, Drivers, Mechanics, Aides)

- Hazard Communication/Right-To-Know (annual)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Exposure Control/Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP)
- COVID Awareness
 - New cleaning Protocols (buses, transportation center)
 - Handwashing
 - Face Covering (sizing, use, wear & care)
 - Personal Health and Hygiene
 - Special working conditions with face coverings (strenuous activity)

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Disposable gloves
- Face Covering/Mask
- Face Shield (if applicable)

Transportation Communication

- The Schodack Central School District will emphasize to parents and students prior to reopening schools that the District has thoroughly disinfected all buses and student transportation vehicles.
- The Schodack Central School District will communicate with parents and students that student transportation vehicles are included in the District's COVID-19 plans and what part students and parents will play in ensuring safety and minimizing infection while utilizing District transportation services.
- In an effort to increase ventilations, buses will operate with windows and roof hatch open when applicable.
- The Schodack Central School District will advise parents not to send their children to school or board the bus if sick or with an elevated temperature.
- Parents will be surveyed regarding transportation including an "opt-out" option.
- Students/parents/guardians will be reminded that social distancing requirements extend to the bus stop.
- Multiple routing scenarios for different instructional scheduling options (split session, alternating days, hybrid option) will be communicated with Administration.

Density Reduction, Social Distancing, Bus Capacity

- As a density reduction strategy, the District will:
 - require one student per seat with all students wearing masks;
 - This results in approximately 22 students on a 66-passenger bus.
 - allow siblings or those that live in the same household to sit together;
 - This results in approximately 33 students on a 66-passenger bus.
 - place floor decals or tape to indicate where students should sit and to mark six (6) foot distances in aisles; and

- not seat students directly behind the driver

Routing

- The Schodack Central School District will develop multiple routing scenarios for administration to analyze different instructional scheduling options.
 - Split sessions
 - Alternating days
 - Hybrid schedules – some grade levels in-person learning at school buildings, other grade levels virtual remote learning
 - Utilize computerized routing programs to provide different routing scenarios and analyze cost/feasibility
- The District will limit rotation of substitute drivers and aides if possible.
- The District will limit student movement between bus routes.
 - Discontinue allowing students to ride different buses on different days of the week unless parent or guardian makes plausible requests (childcare, custody arrangements)
 - If possible, mirror AM and PM routes, so bus riders are the same group each day

Loading/Unloading & Pickup/Drop-off

- Students shall be loaded in sequential route order. First student on the bus sits in the back, when going to school, the last student off the bus sits in the back when going home from school.
- Dismissal times will be staggered to best suit building needs and to promote social distancing.
- Adjustments will be made by buildings for:
 - Unloading and entry, and loading and departure.
 - Route timing which will be affected by delayed loading/unloading processes.
 - Arrival and departure activities, they shall be supervised to ensure social distancing.
- Will add or modify bus routes to reduce load levels on buses.

Transporting to BOCES

- The Schodack Central School District will be transporting to BOCES and will follow similar protocols as previously described.
- The Schodack Central School District will keep a log of attendees on the trip in both directions from the BOCES building. Upon request, schools may need to supply the log of passengers in addition to cleaning logs in the event BOCES must assist in contact tracing due to exposures either at the BOCES buildings, or during transportation.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

In planning for our re-entry in September, the District has formed Reopening Task Force teams to examine the guidance provided by the Department of Health and NYSED for our possible return in the Fall. Our work is grounded in our beliefs the most equitable opportunities for educational success relies upon the comprehensive support for students and families provided in our schools with our professionals and the systems of support we have built. These supports include academics as well as the social and emotional well-being of our students. We are committed to prioritizing social emotional well-being - not at the expense of academics, but in order to create the mental, social and emotional space to access rigorous academic content with confidence.