



TULARE COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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To: Tulare County Schools  
Re: Bussing Guidelines  
Date: March 15, 2021

Tulare County will continue to follow CDPH guidance for schools including bussing. Per COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year:

- Face covering policies apply on school buses and any vehicle affiliated with the LEA used to transport students, staff, or teachers to and/or from a school site. (p19)
  - Classrooms, school buses, and shared school office spaces used by persons who cannot tolerate face coverings are less safe for others who share that environment. Schools may want to consider notifying others who share spaces with unmasked or sub-optimally masked individuals about the environment. Also consider employing several additional mitigation strategies (or fortifying existing mitigation strategies) to optimize safety. These may include increasing the frequency of asymptomatic tests offered to unmasked or sub-optimally masked individuals, employing longer social distances, installing clear physical barriers, reducing duration of time in shared environments, and opting for either outdoor or highly-ventilated indoor educational spaces, as possible. (p19)
- Maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses and open windows to the greatest extent practicable. Two windows on a bus should be opened fully at a minimum. (p23)
- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact between people as much as practicable. (p23)
- Ensure each school bus is equipped with extra unused face coverings for students who may have inadvertently failed to bring one. (p23)
- Ventilation considerations are also important on school buses; use open windows as much as possible to improve airflow. (p26)
  - Specific practices to avoid:
    - o Classrooms or buses with no ventilation.
    - o Classrooms or buses with increased airflow across occupants (e.g., air conditioners or fans blowing into the classroom or overhead fans creating air currents across occupants).
- Staff should clean frequently-touched surfaces at school and on school buses daily. (p27)
- Buses should be thoroughly cleaned daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Drivers should be provided cleaning materials, including but not limited to wipes and disposable gloves, to support cleaning of frequently touched surfaces during the day. (p27)

Schools should consider creating bus cohorts (i.e. via stable route) similar to established classroom cohorts or stable groups. With that, schools should ensure good contact tracing procedures are in place for when a case of COVID-19 is identified. Seating students from back to front and unloading from front to back is an example to reduce unnecessary contact between students. Schools should stagger seating with window and aisle placement to increase distance as much as possible; at minimum, there should be no more than one student per seat with this staggered spacing. Schools should also employ methods that encourage social distancing and masking at bus stops prior to bus entry.