



Summer Sports Transportation

COVID-19 Guidance

Purpose

Safe and efficient transportation of students in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic poses a unique challenge. The purpose of this document is to offer considerations regarding school transportation to summer sports.

Understandably, staff, students, and families may have anxiety regarding transportation to summer sports events on school buses. Communication with parents about the measures the school or school district will be implementing to protect student health and safety on buses or other school vehicles will be key in helping parents make an informed decision about what is best for their child.

Passenger Screening

Players and coaches should have their temperature checked at home before any trip. Individuals with a temperature greater than 100.3 degrees should not be transported to games.

Players should also be screened for symptoms following the most recent [CDC guidelines](#).

Sick persons, people who have been in contact with a sick person or COVID-19 case, and persons who are high risk should not be in group settings.

Driver Health and Safety

Consistent with Iowa Department of Public Health guidance, drivers who have coronavirus symptoms should notify their supervisor and stay home.

Be mindful that many school bus drivers fall within a population that is more vulnerable to COVID-19 risks. The following practices are suggested to help minimize contact with passengers.

- When loading or unloading the bus, have the driver be the last one on and the first one off. Be sure the engine is not running and the driver has possession of the keys.
- Load students beginning with the rear of the bus; unload beginning with the front of the bus. Avoid congregating in the bus aisle.
- Do not allow anyone to occupy the seat directly behind the driver.

General Health and Safety

- Ensure that any school vehicle used to transport students has been inspected as required by Iowa Administrative Code.
- Ensure the interior of the bus (or other vehicle) has been cleaned and disinfected. Pay particular attention to “high-touch” surfaces such as the entrance handrail, seats, seat belts (if applicable), steering wheel, and door handles.
 - Consult materials provided by the bus manufacturers for recommended products and procedures. For other vehicles, refer to the vehicle manufacturer.

- [Blue Bird Corporation](#)
- [IC Bus](#)
- [Thomas Built Buses](#)
- Provide training to transportation staff so they understand how to effectively clean the bus/vehicle.
- During trips, increase circulation of outdoor air into the vehicle to the extent possible.
- Do not allow open food or drink containers on the bus or other school vehicle.
- Encourage hand washing or use of hand sanitizer prior to boarding.

Social Distancing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations regarding use of buses includes limiting seating to one child per seat, in every other seat, and alternating the rows. Strict adherence to these recommendations, for a 77-passenger bus, would allow for approximately 13 students to be transported. Due to various constraints, it may not be feasible for districts to meet these recommendations. For these situations, district should implement practices to reduce the likelihood of spreading the disease, such as:

- Encouraging use of face coverings when use of alternate rows for seating is not possible.
- Allowing siblings from the same household to sit together in the same seat.
- Recommending passengers sit in the same seat going to and returning from the trip.
- Allowing for alternate transportation arrangements, such as riding with a parent.

If a case is identified, spending more than 15 minutes within 6 feet would be considered close contact. Those persons involved would need to quarantine.

Open Enrollment re: Summer Sports

A question was raised regarding options students may have if their district opts to not offer baseball and softball this summer. The only option that seems viable is for the district to enter into a contract with a neighboring district to provide that opportunity. Since a decision to not offer the summer sports would have been by the board, it is unlikely the board would then desire to enter into a sharing agreement - the same concerns would likely still exist. However, if sharing were to occur, there would be an obligation to offer transportation to/from practices.

From the Student Activity Fund FAQ document:

2. Is the district responsible for transporting the students to cooperatively shared athletic programs, or non-athletic programs, for practice?

Yes. The programs which are cooperatively shared are part of the district's offering under its student activity program. If a program is not offered at the school where the student attends, transportation by the district must be available to the students free of charge.