

RCJTC Pandemic Planning Process



Major risks to service:

- Driver shortage and sick drivers resulting in reduced capacity and cancelled runs
- Delays in upper tier scheduling plans further delays RCJTC transportation plans
- Incorrect/inadequate parent information leads to inaccurate/wasteful planning
- Potential complex attendance schedules leading to student safety concerns

Planning scenarios:

1. All transportation running as normal. All students assigned to vehicles based on eligibility parameters.
2. Interim COVID response to bus transportation. Limited capacity and eligible students who need transportation are assigned to every available seat.
3. No transportation due to provincial and/or local orders relating to health and safety of community.

Criteria for Decision Making:

- Monitor & Comply with Federal, Provincial, and Local Health Unit recommendations.
 - Currently as of July 16, 2021 Step III for Renfrew County
 - Groups no bigger than 25 indoors & 100 outdoors
 - Social Distancing of 2M (6 feet) still in place, where social distancing can not be maintained face coverings are required
 - Childcare, Parks & Outdoor & Bars & Day Camps & Malls & patios open
- Monitor & Comply with Local School Boards recommendations.
 - Parents to opt in/ out to get a bus

Parental Expectations

- Families & students, must come to grips with the new reality of safety measures
 - Every student must complete a self assessment prior to riding a bus or attending school
 - Social distancing must be maintained at the bus stop
 - Social distancing must be maintained while boarding or unloading bus
 - Behavioral issues mean automatic suspensions (e.g. jumping from seat to seat)
 - Assign seats for all eligible riders (3/seat from grade K-6, 2/seat from grade 7-12)
 - No walkers or non-eligible sibling ride along

- Students to wear face covering (grades junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten recommended, grades 1-12 mandatory although not enforced)

Yellow Bus Service

- Every Driver/ EA/ Monitor must complete a self assessment prior to coming to work
- Recommend driver wears mask, unless they cannot (NOT enforced)
- Recommend driver wears face shield during loading/ unloading, unless they cannot (NOT enforced)
- Mask, face shield and gloves mandatory if providing first aid
- Gloves/disinfectant to clean high touch areas after AM route
- Gloves/disinfectant to deep clean after PM route
- Gloves/disinfectant to wipe down handrail between runs whenever possible
- **NOTE:** Due to the inherent nature of a bus it is NOT a sterile environment!
- Recommend wash clothes daily (NOT enforced)
- Hand-sanitizer for driver, when using common area/ items
- Students hand washing routine
 - morning routine; wash hands prior to boarding bus, wash hands at school
 - afternoon routine; wash hands prior to boarding bus, wash hands at home
- Students face covering routine
 - Grades junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten; recommend wearing face covering (NOT enforced)
 - Grades 1-12; mandatory wearing face covering (NOT enforced)
- 3 students every seat (K-6), 2 students every seat (7-12), siblings & grade cohort share seat to maximum
- Maximum loading capacity, seat assignment will be mandatory for all
- Ride with windows slightly open for circulation, if tolerable (weather permitting).

Van Service

- As above Yellow Bus service, plus;
- No rider in front seat beside driver
- Parent/guardian and school staff must wear mask when loading and unloading
- Ride with windows slightly open for circulation (weather permitting) or A/C on.

Wheelchair Bus Service

a) Student with low potential for transmission (no external bodily fluids or high risk behaviours)

- As above Yellow Bus service, plus;
- Driver wears medical-grade mask, paper gown, goggles or shield when securing wheelchair
- Multiple wheelchairs may be loaded as normal

b) Students with high potential for transmission due to bodily fluids and high risk behaviours – requires clinical approach

- As above Yellow Bus service, plus;
- Driver wears medical-grade mask, paper gown, gloves when required, goggles or shield when securing wheelchair
- Hand-sanitize pre & post to handling students, or if skin injured or cracked wear gloves
- Multiple wheelchairs may be loaded as normal
- Load wheelchair first, then other students.
- Driver drives with PPE gown & mask on (except goggles due to visibility or mask if breathing issues)
- Unload other students first (no driver assistance), then wheelchair student (gown/mask/shield or goggles)

- Clean shield/goggles, throw away mask/gloves in bag – hand-sanitizer
- Spray high touch areas where time permits

Contact Tracing and Sick Drivers/Students

- Driver gives Bus Behaviour Form to school when suspect sick student
- School takes student aside contacts Renfrew Public Health for assessment, parent responsible for proving ride home
- Renfrew Public Health conducts investigation – Will require run manifest with seating chart
- Driver may continue on run if precautions in place and no direct risk of transmission – RPH decision

Opt-Out of transportation Service

If eligible students and their parents choose not to use RCJTC's transportation services, we ask that you **opt-out** as soon as possible [here](#). This will assist RCJTC, the School and Public Health to perform contact tracing on students who are riding the bus, if a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified.

Eligible students may opt back into the service at any time, although reassignment to transportation may take some time depending on the volume of changes (potentially 4-6weeks).

It is recommended that parents and students use active transportation to get to school as much as possible. Walking and rolling the whole way, or part of the way, will reduce traffic around the school and provide a mask-free experience.

Please see RCJTC's [resources](#) designed to help students who live in the Walk Zone.

RCJTC has suspended the Empty Seat/Courtesy Seating Program this year due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions.