**COVID-19 Resources for School Transportation**

Best Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices for School Buses

**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

* Ventilation of the bus while cleaning and disinfecting is key. Open doors and windows.
* Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) as specified by the product safety data sheet (SDS) while cleaning and disinfecting and wash hands thoroughly after each work session.
* If new products are introduced, workers should be given training on these new chemicals and their proper use, access to the SDS of the product, and the PPE needed for safe use of the product.
* Clean high-contact surfaces first and most frequently, including seat buttons, handholds, steering wheels, door handles, shift knobs, dashboard controls and stanchions.
* Consider disinfecting wipes for quick disinfecting between cleanings and rides as a good way to limit the spread of germs.
* Consider hand sanitizer dispensers in buses as another way for riders and drivers to clean their hands when they aren’t able to do so with soap and water.

**CLEANING PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL INCLUDE:**

* Special cleaning and disinfecting processes, including frequently using room air deodorizers and fumigating, are not necessary or recommended. These processes can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and skin, aggravate asthma and cause other serious side effects.
* High-touch areas, including buttons, handholds, pull cords, rails, steering wheels, door handles, shift knobs, dashboard controls and stanchions, should be cleaned more frequently.
* Dust- and wet-mopping vehicle floors.
* Removing trash.
* Wiping heat and air conditioner vents.
* Spot cleaning walls and seats.
* Dusting horizontal surfaces.
* Cleaning spills.
* The interior of each vehicle should be cleaned and either swept or vacuumed thoroughly after each morning and evening route and/or at least once each day.

**CLEAN AND DISINFECT CORRECTLY.**

* Always follow label directions on cleaning products and disinfectants. Wash surfaces with a general household cleaner to remove germs.
* Rinse with water and follow with an Environmental Protection Agency-registered disinfectant (**bit.ly/EPA-disinfectants**) to kill germs. If a surface is not visibly dirty, you can clean it with an EPA-registered product that both cleans (removes germs) and disinfects (kills germs) instead.
* Be sure to read the label directions carefully, as there may be a separate procedure for using the product as a cleaner or as a disinfectant.
* Disinfection usually requires the product to remain on the surface for a certain period
of time (e.g., letting it stand for three to five minutes). When an EPA-registered disinfectant is called for, be sure to follow the label directions on the disinfectant for dwell time—the amount of time necessary for the disinfectant to reside on the surface. Also, make sure the surface remains wet during the dwell time to properly disinfect and kill the germs. All nonporous surfaces should be disinfected by EPA-approved products known to kill the COVID-19 virus.

**Further guidance:**

**CLEAN AND DISINFECT SURFACES AND OBJECTS THAT ARE TOUCHED OFTEN.**

* Follow your school’s standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting on the bus. Typically, this means daily sanitizing of surfaces and objects that are touched often, including seatbacks, steering wheels and railings. Immediately clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled. If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, use gloves and other standard precautions to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the spill, and then clean and disinfect the surface.

**KEEP ROUTINE CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PRACTISIES IN PLACE.**

* Most viruses are relatively fragile, so standard cleaning and disinfecting practices are sufficient to remove or kill them.



**Worker protections:**

* If new products are introduced, workers should be given training on these new chemicals and their proper use, access to the safety data sheet of the product, and the personal protective equipment needed for safe use of the product.
* Anyone who uses cleaners and disinfectants must be trained to read and understand all instruction labels and understand safe and appropriate use. This might require that instructional materials and training be provided in other languages. Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, proper gloves should always be worn to protect your hands, and windows and doors should be open to provide as much ventilation as possible.
* Workers should follow cleaning product labels for use, including dilution requirements and dwell times, and have ample amounts of ventilation while using the products, including having the doors and windows kept open to maximize airflow to ventilate school bus vehicles.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THIS RESOURCE DOCUMENT**: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and Virginia Department of Health (VDH)