

## Managing the safety concerns for your school bus fleet with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

In addition to other considerations regarding COVID-19, school administrators may have questions on managing safety concern for the bus fleet. OSBA staff have been monitoring the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and various transportation sources for guidance on the need for special cleaning or actions that may be appropriate for public transportation vehicles.

At this time there are no recommendations by CDC or OSHA for special procedures for buses other than routine cleaning, similar to what is done inside school buildings. As indicated in the links and brief excerpts below, the spread of this virus is thought to be based on person-to-person spread and not contact with infected surfaces or objects.

A review of other national transportation resources indicates that some modalities are not changing internal procedures while others are implementing sanitizing programs that exceed the CDC's recommendations.

Even though contact with infected surfaces is not thought to spread the virus, there is merit in implementing routine cleaning of the objects and surfaces in buses that are often touched. This cleaning typically is less frequent in school buses than in the classroom, so school staff should consider implementing a cleaning program in the bus fleet.

Consistent with the CDC resource on cleaning (referenced below), it is appropriate to clean surfaces that are touched often with soap and water. These surfaces in the school bus should include at a minimum the handrails in the stepwell, the tops of seats along the aisle and the inside surfaces of the passenger windows. These surfaces should also be disinfected using the same products that are used in the schools.

The CDC guidance indicates that special cleaning and disinfecting processes, including wiping down walls and ceilings; frequently using room air deodorizers; and fumigating are not necessary or recommended.

OSBA staff will continue to monitor guidance specific to transportation and share more information as it becomes available.

Included here are several links to CDC resources and a synopsis of material related to the above guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

“COVID-19 is a new disease and we are still learning how it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, and to what extent it may spread in the United States.”

Person-to-person spread:

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects:

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Prevention and treatment

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

How to clean and disinfect schools [and school buses] to help slow the spread of flu:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>

- Clean regularly – using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces.
- Disinfect surfaces that are touched often – handrails, tops of seatbacks near aisle and insides of side windows.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting are sufficient – wiping down walls and ceilings, using room air deodorizers and fumigating are not necessary or recommended.