



Transylvania County Schools Bus Rider Guidelines 2020-21

For any questions, please contact Alan Justice at (828) 884-6173

The Transylvania County Schools Transportation Department will follow these guidelines from our NC Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Public Instruction to ensure a safe ride to school for every bus rider and bus driver, while we continue working together to slow the spread of the coronavirus in our community and reduce the risk of exposure for everyone in our schools.

Our capacity on each bus is limited by mandatory safety guidelines. We would also prefer to avoid double runs or extended hours during morning and afternoon routes. For these reasons, we ask families, if at all possible, to travel to school by car, carpool, bicycle, or walking in order to preserve seating for those who absolutely need to ride the bus to attend school.

1. Capacity On The Bus

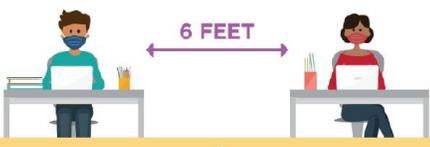
Transylvania County Schools buses have three different capacity levels—72, 66, and 54 seats. One student will be permitted to ride in a seat under current guidelines. So for instance, a maximum of 24 students may ride a 72-seat bus, with one student to a seat. (See the [ICS Re-Entry Plan 2020-21](#) under Plan B for further details.)

One important exception: students (siblings, extended family) residing in the same household will be required to sit together in the same seat, and they will be counted as one student for calculating safe capacity on the bus.

2. Boarding The Bus

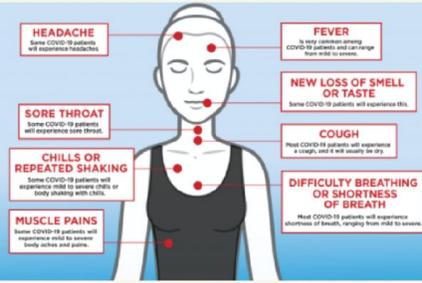
Before a child may board the school bus, parents and guardians must attest to three important facts about their child's health in order for each student to board the bus—no symptoms of COVID-19, no close contact in the past 14 days with a confirmed case of COVID-19, and no positive test or diagnosis of COVID-19. Staff members all follow the same guidelines before entering our schools or driving the bus. (See the [StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit](#) from NCDHHS.)

For the first few days of school, signage will be posted on each bus displaying the three health questions. Students and/or parents/guardians will affirm that none of the three above conditions apply for a student to board the bus. See an example of the signs below:



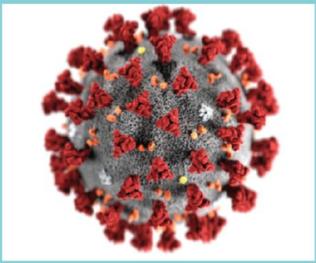
1

Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?



2

Does your child have any of the above symptoms?



3

Since you were last at school has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19?

1

Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?

2

Does your child have any of the above symptoms? (headache, fever (without using medication to reduce fever), sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, chills or repeated shaking, muscle pains, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing)

3

Since you were last at school has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19?

Once Chromebooks are issued, students will receive a tag which parents will sign and attach to the student's Chromebook case or bookbag.

You must present this card to the bus driver before you can board the school bus.

EVERYONE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

My child has not had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with me and advised me to quarantine.

My child does not have any of these symptoms-Fever, Chills, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, New cough, New loss of taste, or smell.

Since they were last at school, my child has not been diagnosed with COVID-19. By presenting my child at the bus stop, I attest that the following information is true to the best of my knowledge:

Parent Signature: _____

Transylvania County Schools

In presenting this tag each morning, parents and guardians will affirm to Transylvania County Schools that the student is free of COVID-19 symptoms, has not had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, and has not been diagnosed or tested positive with COVID-19 without being cleared to return to school.

3. Riding The Bus

Face Coverings

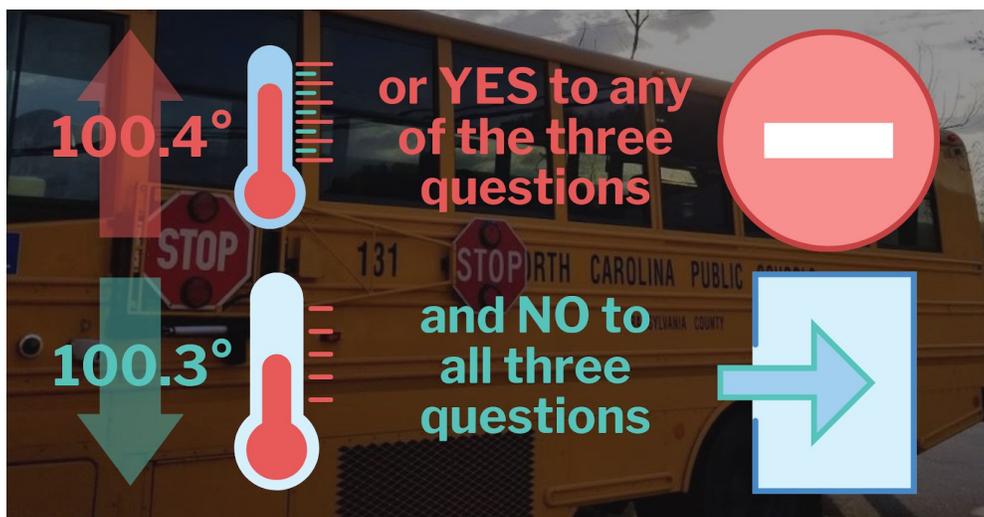
During the entire bus ride to and from school, students and drivers are required to wear a cloth face covering. This may be a bandana, cloth mask or other face covering, whatever is permissible for wearing at school (prescribed for all students and staff in Transylvania County Schools under Plan B—see the TCS Re-Entry Plan 2020-21, and StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit). To start the school year, drivers will have a few extra face coverings to help students who arrive without one. But it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide a face covering for each child to board the bus and ride to and from school. This will help ensure the safety of every student and bus driver, and everyone in our schools, as we all work together to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Assigned Seating

Students will be assigned seats for the entire bus ride to and from school, and will be asked to remain in those same seats for the semester. (See the Code of Conduct in the [2020-21 Student Handbook](#) for further information on students following instructions from bus drivers.)

4. Arrival At School

When the bus arrives at school, all students will have their temperature checked on the bus before unloading. When every student's temperature has been checked and found to be 100.3° or below, then students will unload and enter the school. If the temperature of any student on the bus is 100.4° or higher, students will remain on the bus and await further instructions.



5. Cleaning The Bus

The Transylvania County Schools Transportation Department will use electric sprayers to spray down buses after each morning and afternoon ride. Buses used during the day for shuttling will be cleaned after each run, to maximize safety for everyone who boards our buses.

6. Riding The Bus After School

In the afternoon, bus riders will board their bus as usual and sit in assigned seating, wearing their face coverings for the entire ride to their bus stop or transfer location. (Again, refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the [2020-21 Student Handbook](#) for more information on behavior.)

These guidelines are mandated for Transylvania County Schools to be able to offer bus transportation to and from school for students who need this service in order to attend school. Following these guidelines will ensure that every student and bus driver may have a safe, healthy ride to and from our schools.

If you have questions about any of the information found here, please contact the Director of Transportation and Safe Schools, Alan Justice, at (828) 884-6173. Thank you for helping us have a safe ride every day in Transylvania County Schools!