



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROTOCOLS

All bus riders are encouraged to practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette per the [BCCDC K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines document](#).

Face masks are optional.

Buses will operate with mechanical and natural ventilation as appropriate; it is important for children to be dressed appropriately for travel on the bus.

## ARRIVE ON TIME

Arrive 5 minutes ahead of the posted schedule. The driver will not wait for late riders. Wait time for scheduled routes is approximately 20 minutes. If the bus has not yet arrived in that time, you should return home. Use your designated bus stop only.

## LOADING

Stay on the shoulder or sidewalk, well away from the pavement, while waiting. Remain back from the bus as it approaches the bus stop and wait until the bus is completely stopped before stepping near it. Do not run beside the bus while it is moving.

Board single file and in an orderly fashion. Take a seat right away and remain seated while the bus is moving. You may be assigned a seat, in which case you must remain seated at all times.

## ON THE BUS

Remember that the bus driver is in full charge at all times. Follow his or her instructions about staying seated and quiet, and do nothing that might distract the driver's attention from the road. Chewing gum, smoking, eating/drinking, spitting, throwing objects, shouting/excessive noise, damaging the bus, and using obscene language are NOT permitted on the bus. Never engage in fighting, bullying, or horseplay.

Keep your lunch kit, backpack, and other belongings out of the aisle; they might trip someone. The aisle must be kept clear at all times. Students' belongings must not be placed on the floor, on the engine





cover, or behind the driver's seat. Do not throw waste or any other items on the floor or out the windows. Do not extend your arm(s) or head out of the windows.

The bus driver is authorized to confiscate from a student any object or implement he or she feels has the potential to inflict bodily injury or cause damage on the bus. Any damage to the bus or to equipment must be reported at once to the driver.

## **UNLOADING**

Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before leaving your seat. When departing, step onto the shoulder or sidewalk away from the roadway. Do not push or shove. Remain on the shoulder or sidewalk until the bus leaves. NEVER leave the bus stop or attempt to cross the road before the bus has left the stop. Don't assume that other vehicles will stop just because a bus has its red lights flashing. Some motorists ignore or don't see these signals, and some do not know that they are supposed to stop. If it is necessary to cross the road, look both ways and make sure there is no traffic. When safe to do so, cross the road.

## **GENERAL**

Buses are to be used to transport students from home to school and from school to home. They ARE NOT to be used for other purposes, such as visiting friends, birthday parties, music lessons, or medical appointments. Bus transportation is available for students to their place of childcare if the service is needed on a regular basis and if there is a vacant seat on the bus. The service is provided on a priority basis. Registration is required via the [online bus pass form](#).

The Motor Vehicle Act Regulations do not permit the carrying of large travel cases, hockey sticks, large musical instruments, skateboards, or skis on school buses. All riders, including the driver, must be able to egress safely without any obstruction from large objects.

All items, including musical instruments carried by students, must be small enough to be held on a lap without protruding into the aisle, onto the neighboring seat, or above the student's head.

The driver will determine if a musical instrument or other item is within the allowable size limit. No exceptions will be permitted.





## TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Kindergarten to grade three students will not be permitted to exit their school bus unless a parent or another adult who is known to the bus driver is at the child's bus stop to pick them up. If no parent or identifiable adult is present, the bus driver will return the child to his or her school.

For the older riders, when sending your child off to the bus, make sure they know that they must behave themselves and enter and exit the bus safely. Remind your child to leave home early enough to catch the bus without rushing. Walk the safest (not necessarily the shortest) route to and from the bus stop. If required to cross roadways, be extremely careful and do so safely by stopping and looking both ways. While waiting for a bus, stay off the roadway and be alert to traffic.

Riding the bus is a privilege that can be revoked if a student does not behave in an appropriate manner. Should a student receive a discipline slip as per Student Discipline on Buses (Policy 6036R1), it requires that the discipline slip be signed by the parent / guardian before the student is allowed to ride the bus.

First Student and Comox Valley Schools use **The Baltimore System** - a loading and unloading system that provides the highest guarantee of safety for students while at bus stops and while boarding or leaving a bus.

Wherever possible, bus stops are located in areas where the school bus can pull completely off the road onto the shoulder to pick up or discharge students. In this case, **red flashing lights** are not used.

Where it is not possible, the bus will stop on the roadway, using **red flashing lights** to stop all traffic – not to assist children in crossing the road. It is the view of the Board of Education and the local RCMP that if children are taught to cross roadways safely to and from bus stops, they are more likely to do so safely at all times.