



MSSB guidelines on COVID-19 for 2020-2021 School Year.

Mid States School Bus (MSSB) guidelines covering COVID-19 will be fluid as we receive more guidance from the Department of Education and the State CDC. We will work with each school individually as we understand that each District will need to follow their county or counties guidelines. MSSB, from a consistency standpoint, also needs to come up with a standard set of guidelines as a starting point to work with each District.

Students and driver's health will drive the principles of our guidelines. We will then work with each District to produce guidelines that fit their own COVID-19 policy for student safety and conduct. Communication is very important as changes will need to be made as each county may change in severity throughout the school year.

MSSB will follow standard COVID-19 safety measures that are recommended by the CDC;

- We will implement a bus sanitizing program for all Districts.
- Drivers will be supplied with mask and gloves.
- Washing of hands and use of sanitizer will be strongly encouraged.
- Social distancing will be enforced at the bus barn.
- Weekly and daily safety reminders and training.

MSSB will also implement the following guidelines for students and any approved school personnel.

- No one with a temperature or exposure to anyone with COVID-19 will be permitted on the bus. Parents need to be held accountable for sending a sick child to school.
- Cover coughs and Sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow. It is encouraged that all students carry sanitizer and tissues with them at all times.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on the buses.
- Some schools will require that all passengers to wear a mask including coaches, administrators and sponsors. MSSB position is that we are asking all passengers wear a mask but at this time, it is not mandatory but could change throughout the year.
- Seat directly behind the driver will be empty at all times.

- Seating Chart for all passengers will be completed within 2 weeks of the first day of school. We will follow the school and county directives concerning passenger distribution. That will dictate how many passengers can ride per seat. When possible, one to a seat but siblings will be seated together.
- Students will need to keep their hands to themselves with no interaction with fellow students. We will also remind drivers to social distance which means no fist bumps, hugs, high fives, etc.
- Any Student deliberately coughing or spitting on the driver will be suspended from bus service for the rest of the school year.
- We will update our transportation rules that we post in our bus to cover this policy.

Communication between the District, location manager and Mid States corporate office will be critical. Parents and students need to be held accountable and if masks are required, there must be a plan in place to handle situations where the child does not cooperate with the seating chart or wearing of a mask.