

Student Transportation

Viral Infection Control Tips for School Buses

The tips below can help prevent the spread of pathogens (germs) that cause infectious diseases on school buses. It also includes protocols that help reduce asthma triggers and maintain indoor environmental quality.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides the following guidance on the difference between cleaning and disinfecting:

- Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Best Practices

- Train those that plan to clean the bus and only use products that are supplied by your school's transportation or custodial/maintenance department and do not bring in products from home.
- Read and follow all product label instructions before using any cleaning or disinfecting product, as directions may vary. When disinfecting be sure to follow the directions regarding the time the product must remain wet on the surface (dwell time) and rinsing procedures, if necessary.
- Drivers should refer to their blood borne pathogens training to take special precautions and correct handling procedures if there is a blood or other bodily fluid incident.

Preventing the Spread of Infection

Cleaning and targeted disinfecting are part of a broad approach to helping prevent the spread of pathogens (germs) that cause infectious diseases on school buses. Use these everyday tips to help slow the spread of flu and other infectious diseases.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash after use. Cough or sneeze into your elbow if a tissue is not available.
- Wash your hands with soap and water prior to and after driving the school bus. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and wash as soon as possible.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. These provide pathways through which microbes (germs) can enter your body. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. If you are sick, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

Additional Resources

CDC – School Guidance Tips: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/guidance.htm>

CDC – Handwashing Tips: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>