

COVID-19: Guidance for Kiss and Ride Zone Safety

The safe arrival and departure of students at school is important. School drop off and pick up zones (i.e. Kiss and Ride) can easily become congested with vehicles as well as pedestrians, making it dangerous for everyone. Whether students are arriving by bus, personal vehicle, or active transportation, school property needs to be a safe area for everyone.

An implication of COVID-19 has been an increase in personal vehicle use for school transportation. In an effort to avoid additional exposure, many parents are opting to drive their children to schools, even if they are approved to ride the school bus. This has led to an increase in traffic congestion in school zones, increasing the risk of injury for pedestrians.

Keeping the Kiss and Ride area running smoothly requires cooperation from all school community members. To keep this area as safe as possible, please consider implementing and communicating the following recommendations:

- Communicate drop off and pick up protocols with the school community as a whole, with a focus on keeping the area safe for everyone at the school.
- Designate specific times when parents / caregivers can access the Kiss and Ride area before and after school, to limit the amount of time vehicles are able to park in this zone.
- Use clear signs to show how traffic should flow and where cars are allowed to be. This can help prevent busses from being stuck in traffic.
- Parents / caregivers should be discouraged from exiting their vehicle. This will help limit pedestrians in the area and keep traffic moving.
- If parents / caregivers must exit their vehicle, physical distancing requirements must be followed (e.g., 2 meters apart from others). If distancing is not possible, face coverings must be worn.
- Socializing should not be allowed to prevent risk of exposure, unnecessary crowds, and traffic congestion.
- Have staff on hand to monitor the area, enforce policies and procedures, and keep traffic moving in the correct direction.
- If parents / caregivers are escorting children to school on bike or walking, limit the number of people accompanying the student(s) onto school grounds to one person. Face coverings must be worn on school grounds, including the drop off and pick up zones.
- Staff should model the rules by properly wearing face coverings and keeping physical distance from others.

Every school should have a policy in place, which addresses the school's Kiss and Ride location and protocol. Ensure staff are familiar with the policy and feel confident following it. Regular communication with parents around these policies and protocols will help keep the area running smoothly to keep everyone safe.