



HEALTHY SCHOOLS

1005 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9A 4J8

www.wechu.org | 519-258-2146 ext. 1555

School Bus Considerations

Maintaining a safe transit operation is a priority for families, bus drivers, and the school community as a whole. This is especially important as students prepare to return to school safely during COVID-19.

You can find further information regarding enhanced school bus operations in the [School Reopening Toolkit](#).

Loading/Unloading Zones and Bus Stops Considerations

It is important to consider the following safety aspects:

- Determine the physical space of the loading and unloading zones to ensure there is enough room for physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet).
- The pick-up and drop-off of students at school should be staggered where possible, to avoid congestion at the school entrance.
- Place markers on the ground to maintain physical distancing between students while waiting to load the bus, and while waiting to enter the school.
- If feasible, parents and caregivers should remain with younger children at their bus stop to help maintain physical distancing. Wearing of masks at bus stops by parents, caregivers, and children is encouraged if physical distancing is difficult to maintain.
- For students waiting to be picked up by car, ensure there is a designated area large enough to accommodate physical distancing of students while awaiting pick up.
- For students being dropped off by car, parents and caregivers should remain in their vehicle and not enter the building with their child.

Active Transportation

Alternate modes of transportation, such as active transportation, should be encouraged when possible. This includes walking or wheeling (using a bike, scooter, wheelchair, or skateboard). It is also a great solution for families who do not have an alternative to driving their children to school, or for those who do not feel comfortable having their children use board provided or public transportation at this time.

When encouraging and promoting active transportation, ensure that:

- Parents and caregivers are aware of safe routes to school in their area.
- Safety considerations are communicated to families to share with children (e.g., [crossing safely at pedestrian crossings](#), [crossing safely at traffic lights](#)).
- Components of the [school travel planning toolkit](#) are reviewed and implemented as feasible.

- End-of-trip facilities are considered at schools and provided as needed. This includes bike racks, or secure areas for storing student's active transportation property.