

Bigfork School Transportation Department

August 12, 2020

From: Matt Jensen & Rob Tracy

TO: Parents of Bus Riding Students

As we near the beginning of another school year we want to outline Bigfork Transportation strategy in keeping with CDC Phase 2 guide lines to insure your kids are safe from any viruses while riding the bus.

All routes will be running but pick up times will be pushed back by ten minutes. For example, if your normal pick up time is 7:10 it will now be 7:20. This will allow buses to arrive at staggered times so as to minimize large group gatherings and keep the students to classrooms moving one bus load at a time. Afternoon release times will not change. Refer to the attached link to the Bigfork transportation website for new AM pick up times. Click on departments, drop down, click on Transportation and scroll down to each route.

<https://www.bigforkschools.org/family-resources/bus-routes-information/>

In addition on Wednesdays buses will be running approximately one hour later than normal. School won't start until 8:40 to accommodate early morning HPT teacher meetings. Wednesday pick up times are also included in the link so please make note of this important change in the bus schedule.

Please keep in mind we have a limit of 50 riders to a bus at any one time. Riders have to be "Regular Riders" which is defined as "riders who ride the bus a minimum of three days a week both AM & PM". If you ride less than that or just occasionally in the AM or PM, we probably won't have a seat for your child and they may be taken off the bus which will mean you will have to make other arrangements to get them home. This often happens in the afternoon. Based upon this we are urging "Out of District" Parents (OOD) as well as parents who live three miles or less from school to transport their children to and from school if at all possible.

If you have a boy or girl who have their driver's license who intends on driving to school and has younger siblings, have them ride together. We are strongly encouraging "Family Car Pooling". This will significantly minimizing over fill above the CDC 50 person limit on buses and eliminate you having to drive your younger kids to school while older kids drive themselves which often happens.

Bus riders will have assigned seating and family members will sit together. All students riding bus will be required to wear masks. In the past we have allowed students to go home with friends who ride bus with written permission in advance from parent. This year we will only allow this to happen if students ride on the same bus together. Students who don't ride any bus or ride a different bus won't be allowed to ride on a bus with a regular rider because we just won't have the room. Please be sensitive to this request.

Buses will be sanitized/cleaned before AM route and PM route with a Botanical Disinfectant Solution which is effective in killing 99.99% of viruses including Coronavirus. The solution is applied by a fogging gun which sprays a light mist that adheres electrostatically to surfaces and kills the virus in 4 minutes without harming people. The attached videos will be aid in demonstrating its effectiveness in our environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLXeYxylv9Y>

<https://bioesquesolutions.com/videos/>

<https://bioesquesolutions.com/botanical-disinfectant-solution/>

It is our goal to get our kids back to school. We are taking every precaution available to insure the safety, health and welfare of our students in route to school or while at school.

If you have any comments or questions feel free to contact either one of us.