



EDGERTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Flying Dutchmen"

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Good Morning, Parents!

October 2, 2020

Recently the Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Education, released new transportation guidance surrounding the handling of a suspected or confirmed positive case of COVID-19 on school district vehicles, which includes the following:

All Minnesota school districts must follow the below guidance for rides (15) minutes or longer (and any combination of rides that add up to (15) minutes or longer.):

- ❖ If bus seating is not assigned and documented on a daily basis, all riders would be considered contacts.
- ❖ If bus seating is assigned and documented, daily riders in the same row as the case, the two rows ahead, and the two rows behind would be considered contacts.
- ❖ Drivers who are consistently spaced at least (6) feet away from all passengers (with the exception of students entering/exiting) would not be considered a contact.
- ❖ If the bus ride is longer than (30) minutes, all riders (students and driver) on the bus, even those greater than 6 feet from the positive case, would be considered a close contact.

(Note: The EPS bus company does assign and document bus seating for all school vehicles)

This new guidance is very difficult for our school district as all of our normal bus routes and activity trips demand transportation times greater than (30) minutes. The result of this guidance means that if your child rides the bus/van for (30) or more minutes, and another student tests positive, the results would be an automatic quarantine of 14 days for all students, coaches, and bus drivers.

Parents, the only way to avoid this COVID-19 transportation guidance possibility would be for your child to not ride the bus or van to school and/or activities. I understand many parents may not be able to transport their own students. In trying to help parents, we will try and provide flexible times for parents to bring their children to school or to pick them up at the end of the day. The Edgerton Public School District will still run our buses for those students whose parents cannot transport their own kids to school or activities. If parents choose to transport their child to a school sponsored event, parents must agree to the following:

- ❖ Only parents or guardians will be allowed to transport their child
- ❖ Parents must meet at the school and follow the bus to the event, no matter what level the child is playing at
- ❖ Parents of volleyball or other indoor events realize that transporting their child does NOT get them into the event
- ❖ The child must ride both to and from the event with the parent



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This letter is intended to help parents make an informed decision about transportation for their students. We want parents to know the risks of having their kids ride our school buses. This new guidance is a very tough rule for our school, but together we can do this! Thanks for all of your support for our school.

Sincerely,

Keith Buckridge
Superintendent, Edgerton Public Schools