

# **North Collins Central School District- Transportation Department**

## **Parent / Student Guide for School Bus Transportation 20/21**

Please note: This information is as of 8/12/2020. Due to the nature of the Covid-19 pandemic this guidance is subject to change. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact our transportation department directly @ 337-0166 ex-2200.

The very start up of school this year poses all sorts of questions and creates many concerns. The purpose of this guide is to provide some clarity. Our focus is to provide the safest mode of transportation for students to and from school. Along with that we have set up guidelines to help assure the environment on the school bus is also the best it can be to help keep students healthy.

- 1) If you are 100 percent **sure** school bus transportation will not be needed this school year please notify our transportation department by phone -337-0166 ex 2200 or by email- [adurrett@northcollinscsd.org](mailto:adurrett@northcollinscsd.org)
- 2) All bus stop pick up and drop off times will be mailed to all homes during the week of August the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) Because of distancing requirements due to Covid-19, School Buses are restricted on the total number of students on a bus at one time. All students that ride the school bus will be directed to sit one student per seat and will need to sit closest to the window. The high seat backs on our buses serve as barriers. Students that reside in the same household will be allowed to sit together. \*Students are required to wear a mask when boarding, riding and exiting the school bus. If students don't have a mask they will be given one by the school bus driver.
- 4) Busing to and from our High School and Elementary School will be completed in 2 waves. The first wave in the morning will be arriving @ the schools very close to the normal times of 7:25am & 7:40am. The second wave in the morning will be arriving between 7:50am and 8:10am. *(Please be alerted to this. Students may have **later** pick up times then in the past!!)*  
Afternoon dismissal concerning school bus transportation will also have two waves. The first wave will depart our HS & ELM @ approximately 2:10 & 2:15pm. With a second wave departing @ approximately 2:30 & 2:40pm. *(Students routed in the first wave will be getting dropped off at home 20 – 30 minutes **earlier** times than in the past !)*
- 5) Because of these new restrictions, **daily busing change notes are not allowed**. This also pertains to students getting picked up by the school bus in the mornings at a different address without prior notification. Alternate pick up and or drop off locations can still be requested by filling out an Alternate Transportation Application located at- [https://www.northcollins.com/departments/transportation\\_department](https://www.northcollins.com/departments/transportation_department)
- 6) All **private school** and **special need student** transportation schedules will be based on that specific schools' calendar and that school opening plan. If that schools model is 5 day in person instruction, then school bus transportation to that school will take place 5 days a week. If a non-public school chooses a hybrid model, transportation will follow the specific schedules for each of those students.

**Here are some answers to some common questions:**

Q: What is being done on the buses to help protect my children against Covid-19 ?

A: All of our school buses are cleaned and then disinfected after each group of students ride the bus. If there are two separate groups of students that ride a bus in the mornings once the first group is dropped off at school the bus is cleaned and disinfected before it leaves out for the second group. Major attention is on common touch areas of the bus, like handrails and the top corners of the seat backs closest to the aisle. Also bus drivers, attendants and bus nurses are required to wear a mask while children are on the bus. Disposable gloves will also be worn if needed.

Q: I need my child to get dropped off 1 day a week at their grandparent's house. Can that still be done?

A: This can absolutely still be set up. As long as the grandparents' house is in the North Collins Central School District, you would simply need to go to our web site and fill out an [Alternate Transportation Application](#). Then mail or drop off. Please call if you need help with that.

Q: Will I be able to change where my child is picked –up/ dropped off by the bus **on short notice** like weekly or day to day, as childcare will be hard to juggle?

A: No, while we certainly recognize the difficulty this pandemic puts on families, our first focus is on safety and wellness. Weekly and daily changes make it impossible to know how many students will be riding a bus on any given day. We cannot accommodate these type of changes.

Q: Can my child eat or drink on the school bus?

A: No, eating and drinking is not allowed on the school bus.

Q: Will my child be able to ride the bus to school on any day that they are attending in person?

A: Yes, school bus transportation will be provided according to the group your child/children have been assigned.

Q: Is it ok if my children ride the bus home in the afternoons and not in the mornings to school?

A: It is perfectly ok for your children to just ride the bus home and not in the mornings.

Our jobs are to keep your children safe and healthy. Good communication is an important part of that. PLEASE, never hesitate, to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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