



Education

Education Administration Services Branch
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June 2020

To: Superintendents, School Divisions
Principals, Funded Independent Schools

Re: Student Transportation for Limited Use of School Facilities in June 2020

As you are aware, the provincial government has recently announced the easing of some restrictions in Phase Two of *Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery*. This plan includes re-opening school facilities for limited use, where physical distancing and public health orders can be followed.

Student transportation is not a requirement in this plan; however, school divisions may assess reinstating bus routes based on local needs. To support your decision making, Manitoba Education has consulted with Public Health officials to provide the following guidance in response to questions that have been brought forward. The information contained is based upon current Public Health guidance, and is subject to change as conditions related to the pandemic evolve.

- **Passenger screening**: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to screen children prior to taking the bus. Children who are ill are not to attend the bus or school. Should the child become ill on the bus, the school will screen and immediately isolate the child upon arrival, and contact the parent/guardian to pick-up their child.
- **Passenger seating**: Children from different households must sit 2 meters/6 feet apart; children from the same household can sit together and do not need to adhere to the 2 meter/6 foot distance. Attached is a sample seating plan for your reference.
- **Driver protection**: Drivers may consider the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face masks or face shields, provided that this does not impair their ability to drive the school bus.
- **Frequency of bus cleaning**: At minimum, busses should be cleaned once daily; however, before and after each route is recommended.

- **Hand hygiene**: Public health recommends that students clean their hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water before boarding the bus and upon arrival at their destination. Students should be reminded that while on the bus, they should avoid touching their face, follow cough etiquette, sit 2 meters/6 feet apart and avoid eating on the bus. As part of the post-trip inspection, the driver should ensure that any alcohol-based hand sanitizer is removed from the bus.
- **Air circulation**: Weather permitting, opening windows to increase ventilation is recommended to reduce the risk of transmission.
- **Passenger manifests**: Passenger manifests of students taking the bus should be maintained for 21 days to ensure appropriate public health follow-up can take place in the event a student is exposed to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Sharon Curtis
Acting Director
Education Administration
Services Branch

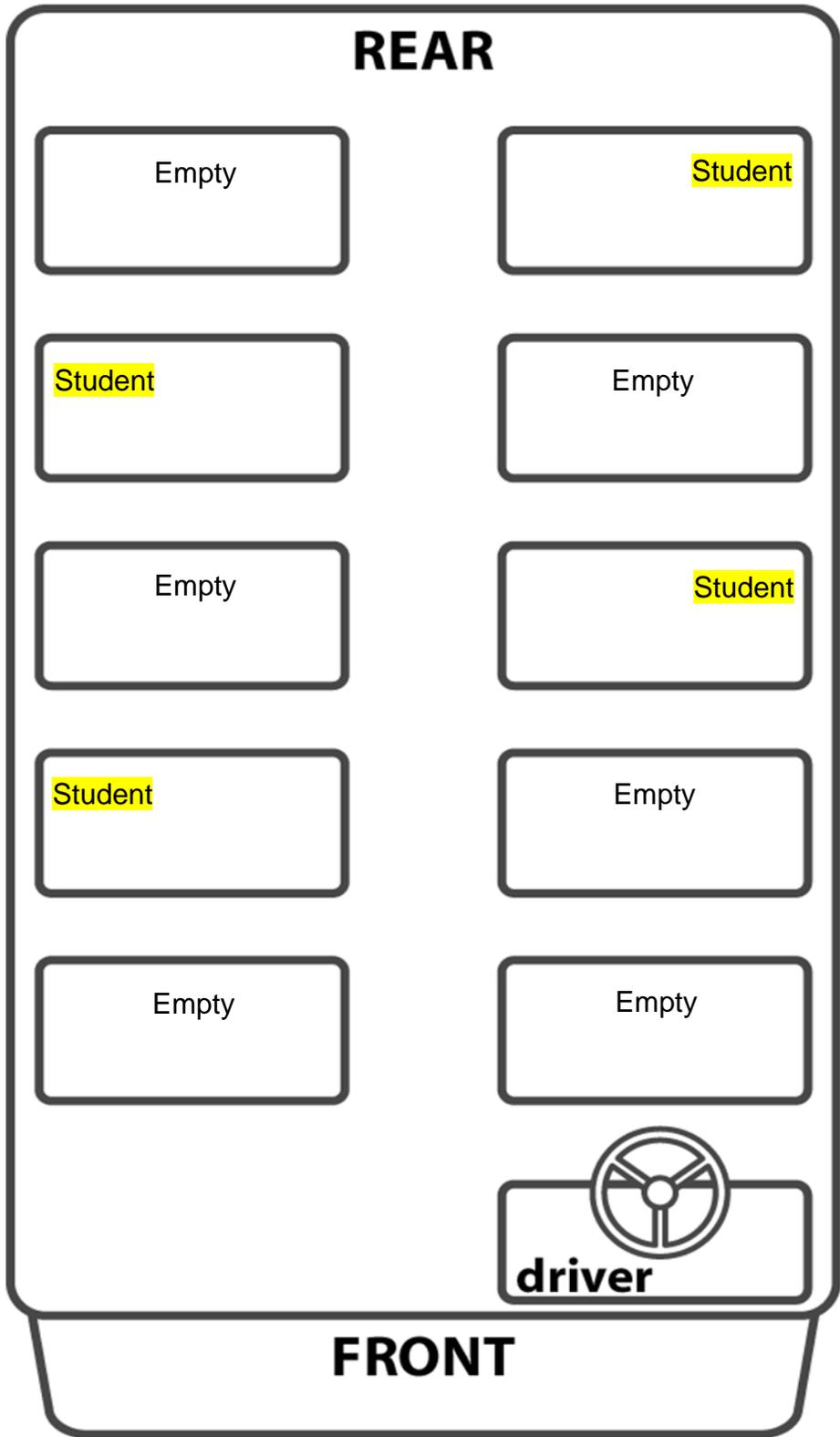
- c. Sarah Whiteford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate and Education Services
Secretary-Treasurers of School Divisions
Transportation Supervisors of School Divisions
Darren Thomas, Risk Manager, The Manitoba School Boards Association
Paul Ilchena, Executive Director, The Manitoba Association of School Business
Officials
Teresita Chiarella, Executive Director, The Manitoba Federation of Independent
Schools
Darcy Bayne, Liaison Officer, Funded Independent Schools, Manitoba Education

Attachment

Student seating position is to be located at window seat position.

Note: School Buses come in various seating configurations (spacing etc.). Therefore, School Divisions will need to confirm prior to transporting students that physical distancing of 2M/6FT is maintained at all times as required by Manitoba Health.

The exception being that students from the same household are permitted to be on the same seat.



Sample School Bus Seating Chart