



RTR SCHOOL DISTRICT #2902

Russell – Tyler - Ruthton

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September 30, 2020

Good Morning, Parents!

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 RTR School District No. 2902 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 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 RTR School District will still run our buses for those students whose parents cannot transport their own kids to school or activities.

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,

David A. Marlette
Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (RTR) Superintendent