

## Fall Reopening Transportation

The safe transportation of students to and from school is an essential part of the safe return of as many students as possible to in-person learning. To that end, Berkshire Hills Regional School District is following medically-advised health and safety requirements as developed by the Massachusetts Department of Education, in collaboration with infectious disease physicians, pediatricians, and public health experts from Massachusetts General Brigham Health System and the Massachusetts Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics.

Several core requirements will be in place to support safe transportation, including:

- All staff and students on the bus, regardless of age, are required to wear masks at all times. Drivers will wear masks and face shields when students enter and leave the bus. They will pull the mask down when the vehicle is in motion to ensure safe peripheral vision during transport. No student will be seated directly behind the driver.
- Students must have their own masks, supplied by their family.
- Students will be assigned seats and with one per bench. Stickers will be affixed to the back of the seat the student will be facing to help the students understand the seating position.
- Bus routes will be developed so that the first students on will proceed to the back of the bus. Each bus/van will load back to front and unload front to back, both at the school and at home. The afternoon route will be the reverse of the morning route, so that the students in the first row will disembark first, to avoid cross-contamination.
- Windows will be open at all times, except during extreme weather conditions.
- Buses and vans will be cleaned and disinfected daily. In addition, vehicles will receive a “fogging” with an electrostatic cleaner between each cohort, on Wednesday and Saturday.
- All vehicles will carry additional masks, in case of need, as well as nitrile gloves, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer.