

Transportation – Summer Youth Programming Guidelines

Beginning on June 29, 2020, Transportation for Summer Youth Programming – which in this context includes Extended School Year (ESY) as well as summer camps, licensed child care programs and instructional programs operated by municipalities and private groups – may begin resuming limited activities once they commence operations in accordance with the guidelines established below. In accordance with Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) emergency regulations, organizations should refer to, and adhere to, the [Reopening RI General Business/Organization Guidelines](#) and the [RIDOH emergency regulations](#), as well as summer [camp guidance](#) and [RIDOH regulations](#). The State prepared a [fillable checklist](#) to assist businesses and organizations with meeting the requirements outlined in these RIDOH regulations. Transportation providers and organizations providing transportation must comply with RIDOH regulations and [executive orders](#).

The guidelines below summarize **additional** steps organizations providing transportation for summer youth programs should take during Phase III. If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact Kismet Lantos-Swett at Kismet.Lantos-Swett@ride.ri.gov.

Phase III Operations:

There are two options/scenarios for providers to offer transportation for youth during the summer:

Stable Group Methodology: If youth on the bus receive programming in the same stable/consistent group (such as summer camp), children are encouraged, but not required, to physically distance from one another. The driver should always be at least six feet away from the stable group of children, even while operating the bus, and only one stable group should be allowed on each bus/vehicle.

No Stable Group: If youth are from different stable groups (i.e., they are in different classes or “pods” during camp and would only be in contact with these youth when riding the bus,), they must physically distance from one another.

- **Physical distancing:** Passengers not from the same household must maintain proper 6ft physical distancing on buses, at bus stops, and while filing in and out of the buses. Passengers should sit one per seat and sit every other row as needed to align with [CDC Guidance](#). Siblings and household members may sit together if they reside in the same home.
 - Measures should be taken to physically separate or force distance greater than 6 feet between bus drivers and passengers. These may include the use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor decals, colored tape, or signs to indicate to passengers where they should not sit or stand near the bus operator).

- It should be noted that coming into close proximity with someone outside your household increases your risk and should be limited as much as possible.

The following guidelines should exist for both scenarios outlined above:

- **Travel-Related Quarantine:** All out-of-state participants in summer youth programming must adhere to any applicable Rhode Island quarantine requirements.
- **Screening Signage:** Screening signage should be posted at the entrances and in high traffic areas.
- **Screening:** Any person exhibiting signs of illness or who has been exposed to another person who may have COVID-19 may not ride a bus in compliance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines (<https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>). Conduct daily health checks (e.g., symptoms checking consistent with other screening protocols across RI reopening) for drivers, monitors and youth traveling on buses safely and respectfully, as well as in accordance with any applicable privacy laws or regulations.
 - All youth passengers should be screened either by a parent or bus monitor prior to boarding. Organizations should identify whether screening will be conducted by a parent or bus monitor prior to the start of the summer program and communicate those expectations to all parties. This screening could include a temperature check and/or verbal questioning. Youth participants who do not pass the screening should not be allowed to board the bus.
 - Organizations shall develop a plan and set of protocols for isolating either a youth passenger or driver if they pass the screening but begin to feel sick or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms on the bus.
- **Hand cleaning:** Handwashing and/or sanitizing should occur before and after leaving the bus, after drop-off, and prior to boarding on return trips. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or disinfecting disposable wipes may be used. Drivers should use gloves if required to touch surfaces contaminated by body fluids as outlined in the [CDC Guidance for Bus Transit Operators](#).
- **Cleaning Procedures:** High-touch areas should be cleaned between runs and buses should be disinfected at the end of each day in accordance with [CDC guidance on cleaning and sanitizing buses](#).
 - Drivers should also practice routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, including high-touch surfaces in the driver cockpit in accordance with the [CDC Guidance for Bus Transit Operators](#) and at www.reopeningri.com.
- **Face coverings:** The use of masks is required for bus drivers and monitors in alignment with RIDOH regulations and [Executive Order 20-41](#) which indicate that masks must be worn unless six feet of physical distance can be maintained easily and continuously. Face coverings are not recommended for children under the age of 2, or for anyone who has

trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.

- **Plan:** Organizations shall provide participants with their respective COVID-19 plan prepared in accordance with the [Reopening RI COVID-19 Control Plan](#).