



VENTILATION UPDATE

JANUARY 28, 2021

Subject: Ventilation on School Buses

In response to the evolving COVID-19 situation, and the concern for a new more transmissible variant that has been identified in areas across Ontario, we would like to highlight that ventilation can be a key support in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Natural ventilation, such as opening windows, can help to remove virus-containing particles from confined spaces, like on a bus.

Recognizing that the front of the bus may receive more air flow with the frequent opening of the bus door, we would like to offer some additional recommendations to facilitate airflow throughout the vehicle. We are recommending that the following be practiced, as consistently as possible, when environmental conditions allow:

- Slightly open the driver side window.
- Crack open a few windows in the back so that airflow from the front can circulate through to the back.
- Where available and accessible, consider opening the back end of the roof hatch to support air exchange.
- Open bus door and some additional windows between routes, during the cleaning and disinfecting process.

While good ventilation is important, following all of the public health measures is critical. Measures like staying home when sick, physical distancing where possible (e.g. empty seat behind driver), mandatory masking of drivers and students in grades 1-12, sanitizing hands before and after the trip, cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces, and assigning seats and creating seating charts, are fundamental in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission on school vehicles.

As recommended by the Medical Officers of Health from the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit

