

## ERA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TO: Parents of Students Riding School Buses To and/or From School  
FROM: Jereme Dietz, Director of Operations, Era ISD  
DATE: August 17, 2020  
RE: Expectations of Riders/School Bus Logistics

Parents,

This school year is definitely going to be unique and interesting. The Coronavirus has created a whole new world which is changing the way we do almost everything. School transportation is no different. I wanted to inform you of the changes Era ISD is making in school bus procedures. First of all, every bus that is used will be sanitized. We are using a solution that is 80% alcohol in an effort to use a disinfectant which has proven to be safe for everyone. Secondly, everyone on the bus will be required to wear a mask at all times, there will be no exceptions. I understand that many people are not in favor of wearing masks. If you do not want your child to wear a mask, then simply bring them to school yourself and pick them up to take them home after school each day. Thirdly, there will be a pump container at the steps of every school bus and everyone on the bus is required to sanitize his/her hands upon entering the bus. Next, all windows will be down on every bus (weather permitting) to allow outside air to saturate the bus. Finally, the drivers will assign seats in a manner to put as much distance as is possible between riders. We will try to have siblings sitting together which may mean that an older student sits closer to the front of the bus or a younger student may sit further back (this has not traditionally been the procedure in the past).

Also, the importance of appropriate behavior on the bus is even more important than ever for the safety of all riders and drivers. (1) As stated above, everyone will be required to wear a mask at all times. (2) Students will not be allowed to get out of their seats at any time until the bus reaches its final destination. (3) Students must keep their hands to themselves. (4) And finally, **NO FOOD OR DRINKS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE CONSUMED ON THE BUS** (this includes water). This letter will serve as a warning for all students; and thus, we will have a zero tolerance policy regarding these matters. The first time a student violates one of these rules, he/she will be suspended from the bus for one week (10 trips... 5 morning routes, 5 afternoon routes). The second time a student violates one of these rules, he/she will be suspended from the bus for the remainder of the semester. Upon reinstatement of bus riding privileges, if a student has a third rule violation, he/she will be suspended from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Please discuss these rules with your child(ren). I cannot stress enough the importance of meeting these expectations for the safety of all riders and drivers. I believe that, regarding the Coronavirus, the school bus may be the easiest place to contract the illness... simply because so many people will be together in such a confined place. It is our hope that if everyone works together to follow these guidelines we will drastically reduce the number of cases with respect to bus riders.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jereme Dietz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jereme Dietz, Director of Operations, Era ISD