



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: LEA and School Stakeholders

FROM: OSSE, Division of Student Transportation

DATE: May 7, 2021

RE: Reminder: Medical Mask Exemption for Students Receiving Transportation Services

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education's Division of Student Transportation (OSSE DOT) provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services that positively support learning opportunities for eligible students in the District of Columbia. OSSE DOT is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of our students, staff and the school communities we serve.

OSSE DOT has increased stakeholder communication efforts by developing and publishing to our website a Bus Safety Kit focused on providing content and information related to internal measures our agency is taking to create a safe transportation environment. Student and staff safety remain our top priority; focusing on the avoidance of infection while students and staff are in transit and at work and implementing specific bus cleaning and disinfecting processes. As we continue to navigate through unprecedented times, it is imperative that communication between OSSE DOT and stakeholders is fluid and transparent.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, all passengers aboard public transportation (including school buses) are required to wear a mask during transit. However, passengers (students) with documented medical concerns and/or disabilities may receive a mask exemption from his/her doctor (CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

For those students that receive a medical mask exemption, OSSE DOT asks that you:

1. Include the medical mask exemption in the transportation section of the individualized education program (IEP) as an accommodation;
2. Include it as a requirement when submitting the student's transportation request form; and
3. Contact us at least five business days prior to transportation services via email at osse.dotcriticalinfo@dc.gov. Please do not attach the exemption to the email. OSSE DOT will review, follow up if necessary, and provide confirmation for services.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the Transportation Online Tool for Education (TOTE) Help Desk at (202) 576-5520 or via email at dot.data@dc.gov.