



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Assistant Commissioner
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August 21, 2020

TO: District Superintendents, School Building Leaders, Nonpublic School Leaders,
Charter School Leaders

From: Christina Coughlin, Assistant Commissioner

Re: **Guidance Related to Hand Sanitizer on School Buses**

This guidance provides updated direction about the presence and use of hand sanitizer on school buses during the pandemic. To address safety needs during an outbreak of infectious disease, the New York State Departments of Transportation, Education and Health provide this joint guidance which shall remain in effect during the period of the Disaster Emergency declared per Executive Order 202 (related to the COVID-19) Emergency.

For Transportation Providers:

Pursuant to Executive Order 202, Declaring a Disaster Emergency in the State of New York, the New York State Department of Health, New York State Department of Transportation and the New York State Education Department hereby authorizes the use of and availability of hand sanitizer dispensers on school bus vehicles that fall under the inspection jurisdiction of New York State Department of Transportation. For the duration of Executive Order 202, no school bus vehicle presented for inspection to the New York State Department of Transportation, as required by Section 140 of NYS Transportation Law, shall be taken out of service due to the presence of a securely mounted hand sanitizer dispenser.

If a carrier installs a hand sanitizer dispenser, it must be located within the driver's compartment and secured in a manner which would preclude such a device from becoming a projectile in the event of a sudden stop or impact. The size of the hand sanitizer receptacle may not exceed 40 ounces and must be ethanol based per DOH guidelines. The dispenser must not block any aisles or points of egress and must not present any type of draw string hazard.

School bus vehicle owners/operators will be provided 30-days' notice upon the expiration of the Executive Order in which to remove such hand sanitizer dispensers.

For School District Staff, Parents and Other Stakeholders:

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as students in NYS get ready to go back to school, school districts will have the authority to install hand sanitizer dispensers on buses as well as allow students and district staff to have personal-size quantities while aboard the bus.

Installation of such dispensers will only be allowed in the area of the driver and must be secure to withstand any sudden stop or impact. The dispenser will not block any aisles and will not present any obstructions to passengers getting on and off the bus. The sanitizer will be ethanol-based, and the dispenser can be no larger than 40 ounces. Students and personnel on the bus will also be authorized to carry personal-size bottles of sanitizer, whose contents should not exceed 8 ounces in volume. These should be secured when not in use.