



Connecting People to Purpose



MI Return to School Roadmap: Transportation Operations

Document Date: July 22, 2020

Dear District Partners, Parents, Students, and Community Members,



Kellie P. Dean
Dean Transportation

At Dean, we are thankful for the heroes on the front lines taking big risks to keep us safe from COVID-19. We stand ready, supporting them in a time of need. As our education system returns to in person instruction, our priority is the safety of our students, employees and the general public. In response to the health pandemic, we are enhancing our operating practices to suppress the spread of COVID-19.

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 has modified our approach to Student Transportation for the foreseeable future. Since the state-wide preK-12 school closure in March 2020, Dean has spent hundreds of hours researching, testing, and evaluating methods of cleaning and disinfecting as well as disinfecting chemical agents. Throughout the process, Dean has developed relationships with subject matter experts that have advised Dean on the proper cleaning and disinfecting methods and other operating measures to respond to an evolving health crisis.

Dean Transportation was founded more than fifty years ago based on the premise that all children should have an opportunity to access educational opportunities in their community. Today, we support and believe in that mission by providing individualized transportation solutions for school districts and intermediate school districts throughout Michigan. We are a family, a member of the community, and proud to play a small part in the development and education of our children, who are the foundation of our future. Our mission is even more critical today as we respond to the COVID-19 health pandemic.

This plan addresses transportation operations, preventative measures, proactive measures, and additional enhancements to Dean Transportation's Standard Operating Procedures for Student Transportation to meet and exceed requirements and recommendations in Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap.

We are committed to supporting a return to in-person preK-12 instruction by responding to the individualized needs of our district partners and our communities during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellie P. Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kellie P. Dean, President and CEO

Summary of Return to School Roadmap

On June 30, 2020 Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the COVID-19 Task Force on Education, and the Return to School Advisory Council released [MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#). This Roadmap provides required and strongly recommended safety protocols to keep school communities safe based on the status of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Roadmap specifically addresses busing and student transportation requirements and recommendations within each phase of the [MI Safe Start Plan](#).




Depending on the status of MI Safe Start, there are multiple scenarios for school opening in fall 2020. Phases 4-6 affect transportation operations.






MI Safe Start Phases 1-3
Schools do not open for in-person instruction and instruction is provided remotely.
MI Safe Start Phase 4
Schools open for in-person instruction with more stringent required safety protocols.
MI Safe Start Phase 5
Schools open for in-person instruction with moderate required safety protocols.
MI Safe Start Phase 6
Schools open for in-person instruction with minimal required safety protocols.

Overview of Student and Employee Protocols by Phase

Throughout the pandemic, Dean has been closely monitoring guidance from State of Michigan and federal officials related to preK-12 education and passenger travel. Even prior to the release of the MI Safe Schools Roadmap, Dean has been working with other industry leaders to identify transportation best practices.

In every situation, the health and safety of each passenger and employee is of paramount importance. The following sections address specifics related to Dean Transportation’s student transportation and employee protocols within each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan. The items addressed in the following pages include:

	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #1 (p. 28)</u> Availability and Use of Hand Sanitizer</p>
	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #2, part 1 (p. 28)</u> Passenger Personal Protective Equipment</p> <p>Facial Coverings</p>
	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #2, part 2 (p.28)</u> Employee Personal Protective Equipment</p> <p>Facial Coverings Face Shields Disposable Gloves Safety Glasses</p>
	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #3, #4, #5 (p. 28)</u> Vehicle Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices</p> <p>Level One: Preventative Cleaning and Disinfection of Frequently Touched Surfaces Level Two: Preventative Cleaning and Disinfection of Complete Passenger Compartment Level Three: Specialized Cleaning and Disinfection After Confirmed COVID-19</p>

	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #6, #7 part 1 (p.28)</u> Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms of COVID-19 Passenger Health Screening</p>
	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #7 part 2 (p. 28)</u> Employee Training and Daily Health Screening</p>
	<p><u>MI Safe Schools Check Box #8, #9 (p. 28)</u> Vehicle Air Circulation and Ventilation</p>
	<p><u>Awareness</u> Physical Distancing</p>
	<p><u>Dean Commitment to Students</u> Comprehensive Approach to Vehicle Cleanliness</p> <p>Disinfect Protect (MicrobeCare™) Monitor</p>

MI Safe Start Phases 1-3

All Busing and Student Transportation is Suspended

In these phases of the MI Safe Start Plan, schools are closed for in-person instruction and all student transportation is suspended. Dean will continue to maintain the necessary infrastructure to restart operations in Phases 4-6. A summary of the services being provided during Phases 1-3, which are required regardless of school closure(s), is listed below:

Non-Exhaustive List of Transportation Services Provided Regardless of Michigan Restart Economic Phase and MI Safe Start, preparing for Phases 4-6:

- Expending maximum effort to ensure continuity of drivers;
- Maintaining a roster of available drivers that have the necessary endorsements and credentials required under federal and state law;
- Maintaining professional management, supervision, routing and dispatch staff;
- Maintaining the fleet of vehicles in a manner sufficient to meet federal and state inspection standards;
- Complying with obligations, including screening, qualifying, licensing, and certifying drivers as required in the Pupil Transportation Act;
- Conducting vehicle inspections as required under the MI Pupil Transportation Act;
- Conducting ongoing vehicle maintenance;
- Compiling data and creating records to comply with district requirements and governmental reporting requirements;
- Meal delivery programs requiring supervisors, dispatchers, drivers, substitute drivers, attendants, maintenance staff, and additional vehicle cleaning and fuel support staff;
- Specialty bus cleanings after utilization of vehicles;
- Periodic over-the-road operation of buses to maintain fluids, and ensure seals, gaskets, battery systems are protected, as idling of buses equipped with current diesel technologies results in increased maintenance and likelihood of engine failure;
- All training costs, certifications and licensure for drivers, attendants, mechanics and transportation office staff including coordination of training, trainers, class costs and related expenses;
- Ownership and provision of all district school buses and/or transportation department support vehicles, including all associated costs, such as insurance, Michigan State Police (MSP) registration, fleet financing, special equipment, adaptive belts & securements, USDOT registration, etc.;
- Ownership and provision of added on-board technologies, such as cameras, GPS-based systems, air conditioning (when required pursuant to IEP);

- Information & Technology infrastructure with Dean-owned server, support and dissemination of routing software and all associated licensing and technical support, as well as Dean-cloud-based RTA Fleet Maintenance software hosting, licensing & support;
- Enhanced facility cleanings to ensure staff safety;
- Additional inspections as required by the Michigan State Police as a result of the pandemic; and
- Pandemic planning, testing, response, monitoring.

MI Safe Start Phase 4

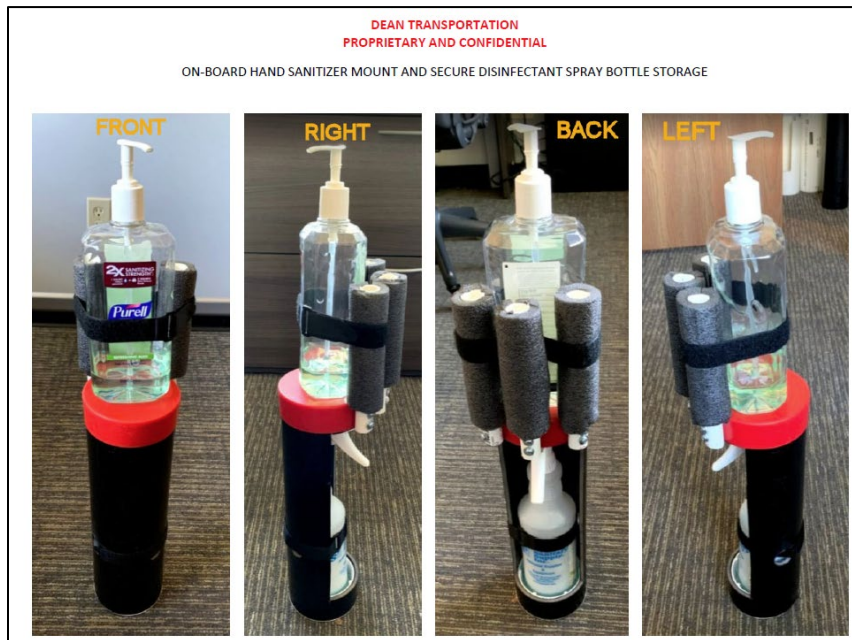
Busing and Student Transportation is Permitted with Specific Requirements

In this phase of the MI Safe Start Plan, in-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols. Busing and student transportation is also permitted with specific requirements. Dean Transportation’s protocols, all of which meet and exceed the requirements set forth in the Return to School Roadmap, are detailed below.



MI Safe Schools Check Box #1 (p. 28) **Availability and Use of Hand Sanitizer**

Hand sanitizer, meeting State of Michigan and Federal requirements, will be supplied and available on board each vehicle. ***The use of hand sanitizer by employees and passengers is required upon entering the vehicle.*** Employees and passengers are strongly encouraged to arrive to the vehicle with clean hands. Please note that the use of hand sanitizer by all students boarding the vehicle will increase the length of the boarding process, particularly at pick-up locations with many students. Dean has taken great care to ensure that the location of hand sanitizer on-board the vehicle meets the approval of Michigan State Police (MSP), in compliance with vehicle inspection requirements.



**MI Safe Schools Check Box #2, part 1 (p. 28)****Passenger Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Facial Coverings**

All passengers on board the vehicle, including any district staff and all students in grades preK-12, must wear facial coverings on the vehicle if medically feasible or as otherwise directed by district policy. Due to the volume of face coverings required, Dean is not able to directly provide face coverings for district staff and students that arrive to the vehicle without a face covering. Dean will work with each district on the correct procedure to properly address the following scenarios:

- 1. How to proceed should a student or staff member arrive to the vehicle without a facial covering.**
 - a. Recommendation: The district will provide an emergency supply of face coverings for each vehicle. Face coverings will be distributed to students who may have forgotten their own. Utilization of an emergency supply of face coverings will be documented by the driver. The school will work with the student / parent / guardian to ensure the student arrives to the bus daily with a face covering and is not regularly reliant on the vehicle's limited emergency supply of face coverings. Regular use of the emergency supply could impact the student's opportunity to ride the bus daily.*

- 2. How to proceed should a student or staff member refuse to wear a facial covering while on board the vehicle.**
 - a. Recommendation: Dean will follow the district's established protocols for face coverings as outlined in the district's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan, similar to protocols for the classroom. Riding the school bus is a privilege granted by school districts. Noncompliance with district policy may impact a student's opportunity to ride the bus daily.*

- 3. How to properly identify students or staff members that are not medically able to wear a facial covering.**
 - a. Recommendation: Dean will follow the district's established protocol for students or staff requesting to ride on a vehicle but unable to medically wear a face covering, as outlined in the district's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan, similar to protocols for the classroom.*

**MI Safe Schools Check Box #2b, part 2 (p.28)****Employee Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Facial Coverings, Face Shields, Disposable Gloves, Safety Glasses**

All Dean employees, if medically feasible, must wear facial coverings while on the vehicle. In some instances, it is not safe for the driver to wear a facial covering while operating the vehicle. This is particularly true for drivers that wear sunglasses or prescription lenses. The warm breath of the driver may leak through the top of the facial covering near the nose, causing sunglasses and prescription lenses to fog. Even when the facial covering is initially positioned to prevent the warm breath from fogging sunglasses and prescription lenses, the covering may shift while driving. The fogging and potential re-positioning of the facial covering while operating the vehicle presents significant concerns. *For these reasons, Dean employees will also be provided with a face shield that must be worn while driving if it is unsafe to wear a face covering.*

In addition to *drivers, attendants and monitors will be provided with face shields that must be used when in close proximity (i.e. within 3 feet) of district staff and students on the vehicle.* Drivers, attendants, and monitors must wear both a facial covering and face shield when interacting in close proximity to students and district staff. In instances where passengers are heavily reliant on facial gestures for comfort and assurance while on the vehicle, Dean employees may be authorized to wear only the face shield. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

All Dean employees will also be provided with and have access to disposable nitrile gloves and safety glasses. Both of these personal protective equipment items are intended to be worn while performing standard cleaning and disinfecting procedures, as outlined later in this document, but can also be worn when interacting with students and district staff.

**MI Safe Schools Check Box #3, #4, #5 (p. 28)****Vehicle Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices**

Since the state-wide school shut down in March 2020, Dean has spent hundreds of hours researching, testing, and evaluating methods of cleaning and disinfecting as well as disinfecting chemical agents. Throughout the process, Dean has developed relationships with subject matter experts that have been able to advise on proper cleaning and disinfecting

methods as well as the pros and cons of various chemical agents that are available in the market.

Even prior to COVID-19, Dean has sourced and utilized disinfecting agents known to kill a very broad scope of viruses, including specifically those in the Coronavirus family. Knowing the importance that cleaning and disinfecting practices will play moving forward, Dean immediately reviewed its past practices and uses of disinfectants as well as the potential use of new methods and disinfectants, specifically evaluating their ability to kill SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply.

Cleaning refers to the removal of dirt and impurities, including germs, from surfaces. Cleaning alone does not kill germs. But by removing germs, it decreases their number and therefore any risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting works by using chemicals, for example EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But killing germs remaining on a surface after cleaning further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

Dean’s research, testing, and evaluation has focused on four key areas. Each of these areas is highlighted below, along with a non-exhaustive list of important considerations for each key area.

#1. Employees

Time, training (proper application, use of any specialized equipment), required PPE (gloves, mask [cloth, surgical, respirator], eye protection), ability for employee to repeat validated processes to ensure consistent cleaning and disinfecting every time.

#2. Disinfectant

Required methods of application, quantity of disinfectant, frequency of application, ability to treat multiple surface types, contact time (amount of time disinfectants need to remain wet on surfaces to properly disinfect), residual odor, “softest” disinfectant that still has efficacy against SARS-CoV-2, ability to procure in a timely manner and maintain supply.

#3. Required Equipment

Ease of use, requirement for specialized training, availability to purchase and replace in a timely manner, maintenance requirements, avoidance of “proprietary” equipment that can only be used with specific disinfectants, accommodate various site-specific conditions (electrical requirements, battery charging stations, etc.).

#4. Method of Disinfecting

Disinfectant wipes, spray deployment of disinfectant agent followed by wiping, spray deployment of disinfectant agent followed by air drying, ultraviolet-C (UVC) light, heat treatment, time-delayed discharging germ foggers, and applications of anti-microbial barriers.

It is important to note that only disinfectants that are listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) [List N](#) are approved by the EPA to kill SARS-CoV-2. Disinfectants on List N have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2 through the agency's Emerging Viral Pathogen program. EPA expects the products on List N to kill SARS-CoV-2 because they:

- Demonstrate efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19);
- Demonstrate efficacy against a virus that is harder to kill than SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19);
or
- Demonstrate efficacy against another type of human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

The intense evaluation and testing process has incorporated knowledge and expertise from disinfection and cleanliness industry experts, Dean personnel with hundreds of years of combined transportation experience, and veteran school bus drivers. The result of this comprehensive evaluation is a three-level cleaning and disinfecting approach, as outlined below. ***Please note that each of these levels is augmented by the application of an industry-leading antimicrobial with unique bonding technology, as explained later in this document.***

Level One

Daily Before and After Every Transit Route

Preventative Cleaning and Disinfection of Frequently Touched Surfaces

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned by removing trash and loose debris. Any frequently touched surface that is visibly soiled will be cleaned such that it is free of visible dirt and impurities. Frequently touched surfaces include the following:

- Entrance door handle
- Handrails in the step well
- Passenger-side barrier adjacent the handrail
- Driver seat belt tongue and latch
- Switches and controls in the driver's compartment
- Steering wheel
- Tops of barriers and seat backs
- Sides of barriers and seat backs
- Back of barriers and seat backs nearest aisleway

- Passenger seat belt tongues and latches (if equipped and utilized)
- Wheelchair lift door handle, controls, and lift handrails (if equipped and utilized)
- Wheelchair securement components (if equipped and utilized)
- Emergency exit door handle (interior and exterior)
- Any adaptive equipment that remains on the vehicle (e.g. STAR seats, safety vests, child seats)

After confirming that each frequently touched surface is clean, an EPA List N approved disinfectant will be applied. It is preferred that the disinfectant is applied and allowed to air dry, ensuring the proper contact time is achieved. In instances where time or conditions do not allow for the disinfectant to air dry, surfaces will be wiped dry.

Until otherwise indicated by state or federal mandate, or the election of higher-level cleaning protocol by a district partner, the *Level One* cleaning and disinfection will be performed by the driver or other designated personnel daily before and after every transit route including morning, noon (if applicable), and afternoon routes. Should each route have multiple tiers a *Level One* cleaning and disinfection could also occur between tiers, as directed by the district. Please note that this may increase the required time between tiers.

Level Two

Weekly After the Last Transit Route of the Week Is Complete

Preventative Cleaning and Disinfection of Complete Passenger Compartment

In addition to all of the frequently touched surfaces described previously in the *Level One* cleaning and disinfection, the *Level Two* preventative cleaning and disinfection also includes all surfaces within the passenger compartment that may be touched (with varying frequency) throughout normal use of the vehicle. Surfaces that will be addressed in this level are:

- All surfaces included in *Level One* preventative cleaning and disinfection
- Lower windows
- Upper windows
- Full seat benches
- Full seat backs
- Full back of barriers

After confirming that each surface is clean, an EPA List N approved disinfectant will be applied. It is preferred that the disinfectant is applied and allowed to air dry, ensuring the proper contact time is achieved. In instances where time or conditions do not allow for the disinfectant to air dry, surfaces will be wiped dry.

The *Level Two* cleaning and disinfection will be performed by the driver or other designated personnel weekly after the last route of the week is complete. This level of cleaning and disinfecting is a preventative approach to ensuring surfaces that are touched, both frequently and infrequently, throughout normal use of the vehicle are disinfected appropriately.

Level Three

As Needed, Based on a Confirmed Case of COVID-19

Specialized Cleaning and Disinfection After Confirmed Case of COVID-19

In cases where a passenger is confirmed to have COVID-19, as confirmed by the district or local health authorities, specialized cleaning and disinfection will occur. Dean will take the following steps based on current CDC guidance.

- As soon as reasonably possible after learning that an ill person was on-board, the vehicle will be parked, cordoned off, and put out of service.
- If possible based on weather and site security considerations, doors and windows on the vehicle will be opened to increase air circulation.
- After waiting 24 hours, or as long as practical, cleaning and disinfection will begin. A specially trained response team or professional cleaning and disinfecting company will be responsible to perform this level of cleaning and disinfection.

Cleaning and disinfection in response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will include all surfaces within the vehicle. An EPA List N approved disinfectant will be applied using specialized equipment (such as air-powered sprayers, etc.). This specialized equipment will ensure that the N List disinfectant is applied evenly on all surfaces, even those that are out of sight and hard to reach. The *Level Three* cleaning and disinfection will occur on an as needed basis, based on a confirmed case of COVID-19 on board a vehicle.

The three levels of cleaning and disinfecting described above provide a comprehensive approach to the rigorous and thorough protocols that support the health and safety of passengers and employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Efficiency and effective use of disinfectants plays a critical role in each level of cleaning and disinfecting. For these reasons, Dean has developed an on-board hand sanitizer mounting and disinfectant storage system. This Dean-developed and customized system allows for hand sanitizer to be mounted in an easily accessible location for passengers. The system also allows for the disinfectant misting spray bottle to be securely stored in a manner that prevents easy access by passengers, but allows the driver access as necessary to perform level one and two cleaning and disinfection. This system will help ensure that the maximum level of efficiency is achieved by reducing the amount of labor time required to bring disinfectant to and from the vehicle,

while also ensuring disinfectant is secured in safe manner. The proprietary mounting system, and storage of disinfectant on board the vehicle, has been authorized by the Michigan State Police, under the School Bus Inspection Program.



MI Safe Schools Check Box #6, #7, part 1 (p.28)

Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms of COVID-19 and Passenger Health Screening

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted on the school bus. Parents and Guardians are required to monitor the health of their student(s) and take steps to ensure their student(s) and others are protected from COVID-19.

If the driver observes a student exhibiting signs of COVID-19 during a route or upon boarding, the drivers shall contact the dispatch office. The dispatch office shall attempt to contact the parent or guardian if he or she is not physically at the bus stop to receive their student from disembarking the vehicle. If the parent or guardian is not reachable, or if it is unsafe to require the student to exit the bus due to the health, age, and location of the student relative to their home, the student will be seated in the front passenger seat by him or herself, required to wear a facial covering if medically able to do so, and physically distanced from other students to the extent practical. Upon arriving to the school, a school representative will meet the bus and evaluate the situation, in compliance with the district's COVID-19 plans, separating the student from others. After the bus returns to the transportation facility, a *Level Two* cleaning will be completed around the seated position of the student.

If a student becomes sick during the day, they must not use the school bus to return home. The school should contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the sick student to arrange self-transport to return home.

While there are no passenger health screening requirements set forth as part of busing and student transportation within the Return to School Roadmap, Dean will work in conjunction with the school district and local public health department regarding implementing additional protocols for screening passengers, should the district and local health department wish to do so, or as mandated by the State of Michigan or other agencies.

If directed by the district to take additional health screening measures (e.g. no-touch thermometers), the district and/or local health department shall provide Dean any equipment to complete such passenger screenings. The district and/or local health department shall provide Dean employees training regarding the proper use of any equipment, consistent with the district's current practices and protocols. Consistent application across the district is key to successful implementation of a health screening

program. Furthermore, for consistency and accuracy, any equipment used on the bus should be the same as the equipment being utilized within the school buildings.

Many items need to be thoroughly considered prior to implementing passenger health screening measures, such as temperature taking. These items include but are not limited to the following:

- How to proceed if a student arrives to the bus and the thermometer shows that he or she has a fever (any temperature 100.4 F or greater).
- How to proceed if a student refuses to have his or her temperature taken.
- Confidentiality.
- Increased loading times, particularly at pick-up locations with multiple students.

As part of its response to COVID-19, Dean has invested in an advanced online platform to administer and record the employee health screenings discussed in this document. Dean would welcome the opportunity to discuss options to utilize this online platform should the district or local health department wish to perform passenger health screenings that could be completed on a daily basis, by the parents and/or guardians, prior to student arriving to the bus.



MI Safe Schools Check Box #7, part 2 (p. 28)
Employee Training and Daily Health Screening

Prior to returning to work, all Dean employees are required to complete Dean-specific COVID-19 response and communication training. The training includes video instruction as well as the requirement that each person read and review the entirety of the written COVID-19 response and communication plan. All of this must be completed and documented before any employee is authorized to return to work.

The training focuses on many topics, including:

- What is Covid-19
- What are the Symptoms of Covid-19
- How Does Covid-19 Spread
- How Can Covid-19 Infection be Prevented
- Key Facility Measures
- Key Worker Measures
- Worker Risk of Occupational Exposure to SARS-CoV-2

Key Vehicle Measures
Key Passenger Measures
Key Communication Measures
Proper Use of Face Coverings
Official Resources

Because of the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the likelihood that governmental guidance will be adjusted accordingly as additional knowledge is gained regarding best practices, prevention and treatment, Dean will continue to work in conjunction with local, state, and federal health authorities to update and refine its employee training as more information is published.

A key item of Dean’s COVID-19 Response and Communication Plan is the requirement that all employees are aware of, and check themselves regularly for, symptoms of COVID-19. On a daily basis prior to reporting for work, or immediately upon reporting for work, all employees must check themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 and complete an online health inventory. Any employees that indicate they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are immediately notified by the electronic system that they are not authorized to enter the vehicle and/or facility and must contact their supervisor. Employees receive the same message if they indicate that they have had close contact with anyone that has tested positive, or is presumed to be positive for COVID-19. Supervisors and other staff members as designated will receive notification should someone respond to the health inventory in a manner that requires attention. Supervisors will also periodically check-in with staff to confirm that each person appears healthy and has completed the health inventory as required.

If a Dean driver, attendant, or monitor becomes sick during the day (COVID-19 symptoms), Dean will follow the protocols for sick staff in the Return to School Roadmap. The employee that tests positive for COVID-19, or is presumed to be positive, will not be allowed to return to work until meeting CDC, state, and/or local health department return to work requirements.



MI Safe Schools Check Box #8, #9 (p. 28)
Vehicle Air Circulation and Ventilation

Weather permitting, and based on site-specific security conditions, doors and windows will be kept open when cleaning the vehicle and between routes or trips to let the vehicle thoroughly air out. Furthermore, weather permitting, and based on the needs of the students on-board, windows will be kept open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe.

**Awareness****Physical Distancing**

Parents are encouraged to educate their children about physical distancing. Students should be taught how to distance themselves as much as possible at the bus stop and onboard the vehicle. Students are also encouraged to sit with siblings, relatives, or another student whom they interact with regularly in their classroom or cohort.

There is no doubt that physical distancing is challenging to achieve in a vehicle. The MI Return to School Roadmap has no physical distancing requirements or recommendations for busing and student transportation. However, the use of hand sanitizer by employees and passengers, coupled with the requirement to wear facial coverings upon entering the vehicle, and regular cleaning is required – as outlined in this plan.

Dean will collaborate with the district on seating chart policies (if consistent with the district’s transportation plan), to determine the desired level of attendance tracking, time impact on the route, as well as any ride-time and building pick-up / drop-off time adjustments that may be appropriate as a result. Bus capacity will be maintained at the manufacturer’s rated capacity to maintain full access to education based on the district’s fleet capacity, with implementation of the other mitigation measures (e.g. facial coverings, hand sanitizer, increased ventilation) outlined in this plan.

Dean will also work with individual districts to examine the feasibility and overall impacts on the transportation system should a district wish to consider implementing physical distancing on board the vehicle, or should it be mandated by the State of Michigan or other agencies in the future.

**Dean Commitment to Students****Comprehensive Approach to Vehicle Cleanliness: **Disinfect, Protect, Monitor****

The health and safety of our passengers and employees has been our key focus throughout the course of researching, testing, and evaluating methods of cleaning and disinfection. School buses and other transportation vehicles present unique challenges due to the variability of surfaces, materials, and environmental conditions during cleaning and disinfection. Disinfectants are only effective if applied properly, using proper contact time, and only kill while they are wet. Disinfecting on a daily basis, while effective, may be prone to human error and surfaces may be occasionally missed. Disinfectants alone do not provide

on-going antimicrobial protection. Even after surfaces are cleaned and disinfected, once they come in contact with bacteria and viruses, the cycle begins again.

For these reasons, and to achieve the highest level of cleanliness for passengers and employees we serve, Dean's COVID-19 response team collaborated with disinfection and cleanliness experts to establish a comprehensive industry-leading approach to vehicle cleanliness. This approach utilizes MicrobeCare™ and focuses on three key pillars: Disinfect, Protect, Monitor.

Disinfect

All Dean Transportation school buses will undergo an initial *Level Two* cleaning and disinfection (as outlined previously in this document).

Protect

After an initial *Level Two* cleaning and disinfection, and prior to buses being returned to Fall service, or as soon as practicable based on availability of professional application, every Dean Transportation school bus will be professionally treated with MicrobeCare™.



MicrobeCare™ is an antimicrobial with unique bonding technology that is odorless, colorless, non-leaching, long-lasting and effective against bacteria, viruses, fungi, algae and yeast. It is registered with the FDA and EPA as a safe and effective antimicrobial that will help reduce cross contamination of dangerous microorganisms on surfaces to which it is appropriately applied.

MicrobeCare™ has a mechanical mode of action, quickly ***killing microorganisms as they land on treated surfaces.*** When microbes come into contact with a treated surface, MicrobeCare™ penetrates the cell wall and disrupts the cell, making the microorganism unable to grow and reproduce. MicrobeCare™ uses a ***molecular bond to hold the antimicrobial to its applied surfaces, thus retaining its full antimicrobial strength where it is applied. This microbe-hostile environment provides a long-lasting base layer of protection shown to eliminate >99.99% of microorganisms on surfaces quickly.*** By continually combating and neutralizing microbial threats before they have an opportunity to spread, the protection of ***MicrobeCare™ persists even in between cleaning and disinfection.*** Furthermore, the unique patented properties of MicrobeCare™ create a permanent bond to the surface it is appropriately applied to so ***it will not wash off or be removed by cleaning solvents.***

Proper application of MicrobeCare™ insures **100% coverage of all areas including hard to reach surfaces**. To insure 100% coverage and reduce the potential for human error during the application process, the most complete and effective method is via an electrostatic sprayer. Electrostatic spraying is an application process of spraying an electrostatically charged mist onto objects and surfaces. The spray is atomized by an electrode creating a negative charge to the mist containing MicrobeCare™. The mist is then attracted to the positive charge and aggressively adheres to any surface it comes close to even if the spray is not pointed directly at an object.

Monitor

Dean has collaborated with disinfection and cleanliness experts to develop and implement plans for a monitoring program, **a first of its kind in the school bus industry**. This program will assess the overall effectiveness of this comprehensive approach to cleanliness, which includes bringing the antimicrobial (the same molecular technology utilized in hospitals and universities) to the school bus industry.

Commitment to Fleet Safety & Cleanliness

Dean is proud of the fact that this well-rounded approach to cleanliness, including multi-level cleaning and disinfecting practices, antimicrobial protection, and on-going monitoring and assessment of new technology will be **industry-leading**, setting the bar for others to follow. But, most importantly, it will help us provide the highest level of cleanliness that our passengers and employees desire in the midst of this pandemic.

Utilizing MicrobeCare™ could also result in **cost-savings and efficiencies** for our district partners, while much more importantly improving the health and safety of the school bus. For example, combining standard cleaning and disinfecting practices with antimicrobials reduces the need to continually treat all surfaces with list N disinfectants.

Stated differently, because every surface in the school bus will be treated with MicrobeCare™, there may no longer be the need to disinfect every surface every day. Ultimately, this approach could reduce the required quantities of chemical disinfectants and higher-level cleanings necessary to maintain bus fleets in a disinfected state. This could also reduce the corresponding staffing resources associated with higher-level cleanings, and keep those resources in the classroom. Furthermore, it is likely there are many long-term environmental benefits to limiting the repeated use chemicals as much as possible.

MI Safe Start Phase 5

Busing and Student Transportation is Permitted with Strong Recommendations

The health and safety of our passengers, employees, and the general public is of utmost importance. For this reason, Dean's protocols set forth for MI Safe Start Phase 4 will also apply in Phase 5. Dean welcomes the opportunity to discuss this approach with each of our district partners.

MI Safe Start Phase 6

Busing and Student Transportation is Permitted with No Requirements

Transportation returns to “normal”, with no specific requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is possible that many of the cleaning and disinfecting protocols identified as a result of this pandemic, as well as antimicrobial protection, could become standard practice in some form or manner. Dean welcomes the opportunity to discuss options as it relates to these items with each of our district partners.

Additional Resources

We recommend that everyone refer to the CDC website for Information on travel and preventive measures, as well as additional state and federal resources listed below.

State of Michigan Coronavirus Response

www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus

Michigan Department of Education COVID-19 Education Information and Resources

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_53456---,00.html

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

www.osha.gov

Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration

www.michigan.gov/miosha

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

www.cdc.gov/niosh

About Dean Transportation

Since 1969, Dean Transportation has been one of the nation's leading transportation companies, providing children safe transport to and from school. Dean Transportation has made a significant impact on the specialized transportation industry through advocacy for special-needs children. Dean currently provides transportation to local school districts, intermediate school districts and universities throughout the State of Michigan. In addition to Dean's school operations, Dean provides charter bus services through Dean Trailways and transportation administration and consulting services to school districts, transit agencies, municipalities, and universities through Dean Management Services.