

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THE INFLUENZA (H1N1) VIRUS ON THE SCHOOL BUS

The most effective measure of preventing the spread of the influenza virus is washing your hands with soap and water. Facilities to wash, however, are not readily available while on the bus route.

School districts may wish to provide antiseptic towelettes and waterless hand sanitizer for each bus route.

The provisional procedures that follow address additional cleaning measures to be taken on an as needed basis to provide reasonable assurance of protection from the influenza virus.

1. Bus operator and/or attendant should disinfect the commonly used hard or impervious surfaces of the bus after each route (i.e., at the end of the morning run and the end of the afternoon run.) The commonly used hard surfaces include handrails, door handles, seats, lap belts, and seat backs.
 - a. Districts should make available disposable gloves, paper towels, and aerosol spray disinfectant. Follow your district's guidelines on acceptable disinfectants.
 - b. The disinfectant should only be used when students are not on the bus. Using the gloves as personal protective equipment, the operator and/or attendance should proceed to spray the identified surfaces.
 - c. Excess disinfectant should be wiped up with a clean paper towel. Some bus windows should remain open to allow for proper ventilation during cleaning.
 - d. The paper towels and gloves should be properly disposed.
 - e. Aerosol spray cans are specifically prohibited from being on the school bus while in operation.
2. The bus should be properly swept and the trash can emptied and cleaned after each route.
3. If a case of H1N1 is confirmed in a student who is a bus rider, contact your local health department to determine the latest recommended procedures for disinfecting the identified school bus.