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236 ENHANCED CLEANING & DISINFECTION OF SCHOOL BUSES – COVID-19
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Statement and Rationale	<p>To provide a clean and safe environment for home-to-school transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent possible, the following enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures will be implemented on all school purpose vehicles operated on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium and its Member School Boards.</p> <p>These procedures have been developed with guidance from the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Education, and Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p>
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Procedure	<p>1.0 Cleaning and Disinfection Process</p> <p>Cleaning is a critical first step for disinfecting affected surfaces. Routine cleaning should take place prior to disinfection.</p> <p>All high-touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least once daily following the manufacturer's instructions for the product being used.</p> <p>High touch surfaces in school buses that should be regularly cleaned include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seats; • Inside hand railings; • Interior windows and wall section below passenger windows; • Inside and outside door handles (including manual control for service door); • Inside door grab handles, pads and armrests; • Keys; • Steering wheel; • Shift lever and console;
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Reference to Policy	<p>Implemented: 2020</p> <p>Reviewed: 2022</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboard; • Turn signal and wiper stalks; • Seat and Seat adjuster; • Any other parts that are commonly used and that may have been touched. <p>Dispose of soiled cloths, disposable gloves and any other items in contact with contaminated surfaces in a waste disposal bag. Seal the waste disposal bag and discard in lined trash bin.</p> <p>Wash hands when finished using proper hand washing techniques.</p> <p>2.0 Frequency and Timing</p> <p>Enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures must be implemented by all school bus operators in addition to routine internal and external cleaning of school buses.</p> <p>All school purpose vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected at least once daily following the steps outlined below. Cleaning and disinfection should take place, wherever possible, after the completion of morning or afternoon runs to allow for all surfaces to dry completely, and to ensure that buses are being cleaned while warm during the winter months.</p> <p>Any vehicle used for purposes other than home-to-school transportation must be cleaned and disinfected following this use, and prior to being used for home-to-school transportation.</p> <p>3.0 Cleaner and Disinfectant</p> <p>For routine cleaning and disinfection, and for areas potentially contaminated with COVID-19, a hard-surface disinfectant authorized by Health Canada must be used.</p>
Reference to Policy	Implemented: 2020 Reviewed: 2022



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	<p>A list of hard-surface disinfectants approved for use against coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on Health Canada’s website using the product’s 8-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN) as a reference.</p> <p>Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the recommended dilution rates, contact times and conditions specific to the surface. Avoid bleach except on simple plastics and ensure that cleaners and disinfectants do not void the vehicle manufacturers warranty where applicable.</p> <p>4.0 Health and Safety</p> <p>To protect against COVID-19 Bus Drivers and any other individual cleaning buses should wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including a disposable mask/face covering, disposable gloves, and face shield while cleaning.</p> <p>All safe handling procedures and PPE requirements specific to the cleaner and disinfectant being used should be followed according to the manufacturer’s recommendations and Safety Data Sheet.</p> <p>Wash hands when finished using proper hand washing techniques.</p> <p>In addition to regular cleaning of school bus interiors, to the extent possible, it is recommended that operators reduce the number of drivers per vehicle and ensure that the same drivers use the same vehicle and keep the same work schedules in order to limit contacts as much as possible.</p> <p>Windows should be opened when feasible during cleaning and vehicle operation to increase ventilation.</p>
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Reference to Policy	Implemented: 2020 Reviewed: 2022
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