

Van Transportation FAQ

During this unprecedented time, Marshfield Public Schools is asking that any parent/guardian that is able to drive their child(ren) to school to please do so due to the limited capacity we are able to work with to meet COVID-19 safety guidelines as determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Q. How are the van assignments being determined during a time when there is a significant reduction in van capacity due to COVID-19?

A. Requests for van transportation come from the Team Chair at each school and are reviewed and approved by the Director of Special Education.

Q. My child requires to be picked-up and/or dropped-off at more than one address during the week due to split households, parenting schedules, or child care issues. How is this being handled?

A. At this time, we are only transporting each student to the primary home address that is listed in Aspen. No alternate addresses can be considered during this time. The purpose of having one address for pick-up and drop-off is to lessen exposure to the COVID-19 virus. A single home address will allow us to assign a student to one van, one specified seat assignment, the same van driver and with the same students sharing that transportation.

Q. Where is the legal requirement for schools to provide transportation for their special needs students located?

A. 603 CMR 28.00

Q. What is a capacity allowed for our vans during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. Marshfield Public Schools is following the COVID-19 Guidelines that have been determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Registry of Motor Vehicles as it pertains to 7D pupil vehicles. The vans owned by Marshfield Public Schools are 10-passenger capacity vans. The normal capacity for these vans is for 8 students. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, we will only be able to accommodate 3-4 students per van. The COVID-19 capacity of the vans may need to accommodate less than this number of students depending on the needs of special education students.

Q. Will students be assigned to the same van and the same seat due to COVID-19?

A. Yes. The only time that a different van may be used is if the assigned van is unavailable due to service issues.

Q. Will students be required to wear a mask on the van?

A. Yes, students must enter the van wearing a mask and leave it on during the entire ride unless there is a documented medical reason from your physician why the student cannot wear a mask. This will need to be communicated prior to transportation being set-up.

Q. How are the schools going to handle the increased traffic caused by parents driving their children to school?

A. Each individual school is creating a traffic plan that will be released once we can reasonably assess the number of students that will be driven to school by a parent/guardian.

Q. Can siblings sit together?

A. Siblings can be assigned to seats together unless this creates problems with socially distant spacing capacity.

Q. How will the vans be disinfected, by whom, and how often?

A. All drivers are following the guidelines and cleaning procedures put into place. All vans are equipped with disinfecting spray, hand sanitizers and masks. The drivers are required to disinfect all touchable surfaces throughout the day, as feasible, depending on time in between runs.

Q. I have a concern/question regarding transportation, who do I contact?

A. Please e-mail your question/concern to transportation@mpsd.org and your e-mail will be reviewed by the appropriate administrator and answered.