

In addition to the approximately 220,000 students, Kansas school buses also transport a countless number of germs every day. Students and drivers can contaminate an area as soon as they touch it. Handrails, seat backs, seat cushions and windows are all common touch areas. The COVID-19 situation has brought an increased awareness to cleaning and disinfecting school vehicles. This document contains information to assist you with cleaning your activity and school buses along with your school passenger vehicles. All school vehicles should be considered an extension of the classroom with the same expectation of cleanliness. It is recommended the vehicle be cleaned and sanitized after every trip.

BASIC INFORMATION

- The floors on the buses should be cleaned first. Vacuum cleaners are more effective at removing dust and soils than brooms and they prevent them from becoming airborne.
- Manually clean all touchable surfaces of the bus using a two-step process which involves cleaning the surface first and then disinfecting the surface in the second step. Touchable surfaces include but are not limited to: all seat surfaces, handrails, windows, window ledges and all surface area between the bottom of the window and the floor.
- The installation of any type of barrier around the driver would be considered a modification of the bus and prohibited by law. The same would apply to mounted hand sanitizers.
- All touchable surfaces and controls in the driver's compartment should also be cleaned and disinfected. Activity buses may have additional touchable surfaces such as storage compartments, map lights etc.
- Remember buses are manufactured with and contain different materials that require cleaning and disinfecting differently so as not to damage the surface.

GENERAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTING GUIDELINES

- Always review and follow safe handling and safety instructions that are on the label or inserts of the cleaner/chemicals being used, and do not mix chemicals unless proper documentation advises otherwise.
- Mop heads can lead to contamination if left soaking in dirty cleaning solutions. Laundering of cloths and mop heads after use and allowing them to dry before re-use can help to minimize the degree of contamination.
- Surfaces may need to be "cleaned" before they are disinfected
- Use personal protection equipment such as gloves or other guidelines for safe usage and handling
- Towels used should be clean and free of any oils, dirt, debris, residue from other chemicals
- Apply the cleaner to your towel and not directly to the surface
- Micro fiber towels are recommended
- Do not soak, use enough cleaner to wipe off and not leave puddling or soaking. This can be harmful to material and soak through

- Have appropriate ventilation as specified by the cleaners/chemical agent instructions for safe usage and handling
- Use personal protection equipment such as gloves to prevent direct contact with chemicals that may affect skin. See instructions
- If splashing is possible, use personal eye protection equipment such as a face shield or goggle equipment to prevent potential eye contamination

PRODUCTS NOT RECOMMENDED

- Pure Bleach on vinyl (seating surfaces) or plastic: Can cause damage to vinyl and plastics. Do NOT use pure or diluted bleach on fabric such as fabric seat covers or seatbelts in addition to compromising colors etc. it will also weaken the material
- Ammonia based products on plastic or vinyl or touch screens: Ammonia breaks down vinyl and can make it sticky or tacky when subjected to heat and light and will damage antiglare and anti-fingerprint coatings on touch screens
- Pure Hydrogen Peroxide on vinyl, fabric, or plastics

APPROVED PRODUCTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC) has compiled a list of products that have been pre-approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens and can be used during the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This product list is not exhaustive but can be used by schools to identify products suitable for use COVID-19. Follow this link for the list https://admin.ks.gov/docs/default-source/coronavirus/epa-agents.pdf?sfvrsn=bd2585c7_2
- Isopropyl Alcohol (70% - known as Rubbing alcohol)
- De Natured Alcohol, sold in paint aisle's and may be more available than Isopropyl alcohol
- Common Bleach, but to be used only in a diluted form with a water to bleach ratio of 10:1. Any surface cleaned with a diluted bleach solution MUST be additionally wiped with clear water after the diluted solution is used and wiped off. Water wiping is a second operation after using the diluted solution.
- Using an Electrostatic Sprayer to apply a disinfectant along with and an electric charge which enables the disinfectant to fully cover a surface

Sources

CDC Website for Coronavirus COVID-19 Information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

CDC's FAQ page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

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Thomas Built Buses <https://thomasbuiltbuses.com/content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19-Cleaning-Instructions.pdf>

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