

# ROUND LAKE/BREWSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ray Hassing — Superintendent/Principal

October 8, 2020

Good Morning, Parents!

Recently the Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Education, released new transportation guidance surrounding the handling of a suspected or confirmed positive case of COVID-19 on school district vehicles, which includes the following:

All Minnesota school districts must follow the below guidance for rides (15) minutes or longer (and any combination of rides that add up to (15) minutes or longer):

- ❖ If bus seating is not assigned and documented on a daily basis, all riders would be considered contacts.
- ❖ If bus seating is assigned and documented, daily riders in the same row as the case, the two rows ahead, and the two rows behind would be considered contacts.
- Drivers who are consistently spaced at least (6) feet away from all passengers (with the exception of students entering/exiting) would not be considered a contact.
- ❖ If the bus ride is longer than (30) minutes, all riders (students and driver) on the bus, even those greater than 6 feet from the positive case, would be considered a  
a  
close contact.

(Note: The RLB School District No. 2907 does assign and document bus seating for all school vehicles)

This new guidance is very difficult for our school district as all of our normal bus routes and activity trips demand transportation times greater than (30) minutes. The result of this guidance means that if your child rides the bus/van for (30) or more minutes, and another student tests positive, the results would be an automatic quarantine of 14 days for all students and bus drivers.

Due to these changes in guidelines, and having a shortage of bus drivers at this time, we are going to go back to having only one time for bus routes in the mornings and afternoons beginning on Monday, October 12, 2020. All students will be in school from

8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The bus drivers will be calling you to give you the new pick up and drop off times for your children. This means that we will have all students assigned to a seat each route, but instead of sitting every other seat as we have been doing, that one student or family will be assigned to every seat on the bus. Students will be required to sit in this assigned seat each route while wearing their masks. We also will continue to take temperatures before allowing entrance on to the buses. We are doing our best to promote safety for all.

Parents, the only way to avoid this COVID-19 transportation guidance possibility would be for your child to not ride the bus or van to school and/or activities. I understand many parents may not be able to transport their own students. In trying to help parents, we will try and provide flexible times for parents to bring their children to school or to pick them up at the end of the day. The RLB School District will still run our buses for those students whose parents cannot transport their own kids to school or activities.

This letter is intended to help parents make an informed decision about transportation for their students. We want parents to know the risks of having their children ride our school buses. This new guidance is a very tough rule for our school, but together we can do this! Thanks for all of your support for our school.

If any questions, please contact me at 507-842-5951.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hassing  
Mr. Hassing  
Superintendent