Guidance Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19): OSSE Transportation

Background
As a part of the District's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is offering this policy document regarding the operating status of OSSE Division of Student Transportation.

Scope
This document contains guidance specifically relating to how OSSE Division of Student Transportation will continue providing services in the event of school closures related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Effective Date
This policy will take effect from March 9th, 2020, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Questions?
If you have questions relating to this policy, please contact osse.dot@dc.gov or the Parent Resource Center at (202) 576-5000 Option 2 (for schools).

OSSE DOT Operational Status

Listed below is the OSSE DOT Operational Status in response to COV19. *Please note that while we will make every effort to ensure appropriate staffing, unexpected staff absences will impact service levels.*

Status	Description	Staff
Code Red – All DCPS schools closed due to public health action	All DCPS schools are closed, OSSE DOT will not provide transportation services. *Parents/guardians of students attending PCS or non-public schools, OSSE DOT will provide parent reimbursement for transportation services.*	DOT Terminals will close. Terminal staff will not report. DOT emergency central office staff will report.
Code Yellow – All or some DCPS schools open; PCS, non-public schools or neighboring jurisdictions close due to public health action	OSSE DOT will provide transportation services for DCPS. OSSE DOT will not provide transportation for closed PCS or non-public schools. OSSE DOT will not provide transportation to or from the closed jurisdiction (ex. Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, OSSE DOT will not transport to/from/through the county)	DOT will open. *All staff will work and tours of duty may be adjusted based on operational need.*
Code Green – All schools are open	OSSE DOT will provide transportation services.	DOT will open.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happens a student attends a non-public school (to DC, MD or VA) but receives OSSE transportation? OSSE DOT will operate based on the status listed above. OSSE DOT will use the standard notification process to ensure parents/guardians are aware of the operational status. Schools are encouraged to ensure parent/guardian contact information is correct in their respective student information systems (for notification purposes). OSSE will provide reimbursement to families if their child needs transportation to attend a school that is in another jurisdiction that is open while OSSE-DOT is not operating transportation services.

2. What happens if my student becomes ill in the middle of the school day? If a parent/guardian is notified a student is ill, the parent/guardian will be required to retrieve their child from school (in alignment with standard medical notification procedures).

3. How are buses kept clean? School bus staff have access to cleaning supplies and materials and are encouraged to clean buses internally twice per day. OSSE DOT has contracts with bus cleaning companies who clean buses (inside/exterior) regularly. If more thorough cleanings are required, OSSE DOT will remove the bus from service and engage cleaning contractors.

4. Who should a parent/guardian contact if their child will not be attending school and receives transportation? Please notify your local school and OSSE DOT at osse.dot@dc.gov or at (202) 576-5000.

5.   How do I notify OSSE DOT of changes to the school calendar (ex. Closings, delays, half-day or other schedule changes? Schools should continue to send changes to their daily schedule that will impact student transportation to osse.dotcriticalinfo@dc.gov .