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சுகாதார மற்றும் சுதேசவைத்தியச் சேவைகள் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

Mr. N.H.M. Chitrananda,

Secretary/Ministry of Education,

Instructions for transport of school children during COVID-19 outbreak situation

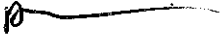
It was suggested to prepare a safe school transportation guide during the discussion with the education sector on issues related to implementation process of school re-opening chaired by Dr. Anil Jasinghe - Director General of Health Services on the 26th May 2020. (Minutes attached)

The key recommendations for school transportation:

- Transport facilities for school children, should be arranged, maintaining the physical distancing measures. The maximum number of students per vehicle should be equal to the number of seats in the vehicle. No one should be standing while travelling. Jumping seats should be removed if available as it would be contaminated repeatedly.
- If a child is having respiratory symptoms, they should not allowed to enter the vehicle.
- Vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected (the seats, all handles, interior door panel windows, locks, exterior door handles, poles, etc.) before transport of passengers to prevent possible cross contamination.
- Transport methods should be identified for all students; "SisuSariya" transport facilities should be further strengthened. (one bus for one or two schools covering the main bus routes)
- It is better if one school van is allocated to transport students of maximum three schools; this would prevent spreading of infection to a larger number, if somebody gets infected with COVID-19 as well as easier for contact tracing.
- Students should try to sit on the same place every day to minimize contamination

- A separate person should be allocated to open and close doors of the vehicle.
- Students should adhere to minimum touching of vehicle surfaces.
- Students/teachers and transport staff should wear masks during transport.
- When children are getting in and out of vehicles, maintain social distancing without crowding.
- They should practice proper hand washing practices and respiratory etiquette.
- If a student falls ill during transport, the parents/guardians should be notified immediately and keep the student separately.
- Make sure not to discriminate the children or staff members coming from families or communities who have been certified as completed quarantine.
- Grade 1, 2 and 3 students should not wait in the school van/bus till the older students come. There should be a safe area within the school for these students to wait till older students come.
- School vans or buses should not be parked inside the schools.
- School van drivers should maintain a list of contact numbers of the students.

The content of this guide should be communicated to relevant authorities.


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