

# Practicing Safe School Travel

Return to School September 2020

Use the **Map** created for your school to plan an active route all or part of the way to school.

[Get my Map](#)



## Walking and Wheeling

For students and their families with the ability to do so, active school travel (i.e. travel by walking, cycling or other personal mobility devices) is **still the preferred option for all students not travelling by school bus or public transit**. This is because:

- Active travel is good for our health, including physical fitness and mental health.
- Research links active travel to being more alert and ready to learn at school.
- Less cars coming to the school helps improve air quality and safety for everyone.

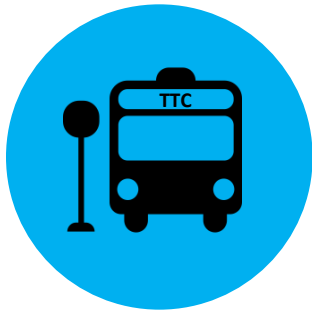


## School Bus

Students that are eligible for transportation by school bus are encouraged to take the school bus whenever possible. This fall, there are new rules to ensure safety:

- All students (K-12) must wear a non-medical mask or face covering while riding the bus (exceptions will be made for students with medical conditions or special needs).
- Students must sit in their assigned seat on the bus every time, and stay in their seat the whole ride.
- Students will be assigned seats on the bus. Students who live in the same household or who are in the same classroom cohort will be seated together.

To learn more about health and safety protocols on school buses, visit <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/covid-19/>.



## Public Transit and Ride Sharing

Public transit and ride sharing can be good options for families who are unable to travel by walking, wheeling or school bus.

- The TTC is FREE for children 12 years of age and under.
- All TTC fares include a 2-hour window of free transfers, so caregivers may get off to drop off/pick-up at school and then continue on their way with no additional fare.
- While travelling by TTC, you must wear a non-medical mask or other face covering. There are some exceptions, including children under two years of age, and those with certain medical conditions.
- While travelling by taxi or other ride share, including carpooling, wear a non-medical mask or face covering.



## Driving

Individual needs may require students and their families to drive to/from school.

- Plan to make your drive safe and convenient by following the rules of the school drop-off and pick-up area to keep the school zone safe for everyone.
- If you are able, try parking at a distance from the school (e.g., 5 minute walk), and travel actively the rest of the way to school. This will reduce traffic near the school.
- If you are able, please save the spaces closest to the school for those who need them most, such as caregivers of very young children and members of our school community with special needs.

## Whatever your travel mode, remember:

- Stay home if you or your child is feeling sick or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Practice physical distancing- stay 2 metres/6 feet apart.
- Adults and older children: When physical distancing is not possible, wear a mask or other face covering. When correctly worn, masks should cover both mouth and nose.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 15 seconds when returning indoors.