

Date: 6-10-2020

From: schoolbus@AZDPS.GOV

Subject: COVID- 19: School Bus Partitions/Sneeze Guards

The Arizona Department of Public Safety has received several requests to review and approve the installation of partitions or sneeze guards for school bus occupants and understands the desire of school districts to properly protect their students and drivers during these challenging times. The requests to install barriers on school buses varies widely and requires careful consideration and review prior to making any recommendation as the safety of student passengers is a high priority. The Department has reviewed the Center for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 guidelines, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines, and the Arizona Department of Education *Roadmap for Reopening Schools* document and various other informational resources. Additionally, we have had discussions with industry stakeholders regarding their comments and concerns as they relate to student transportation and COVID-19.

Consistent with the principles of safety, security and efficiency, we assessed the totality of the circumstances surrounding partitions and sneeze guards as they relate to vehicle and passenger safety requirements. Out of an abundance of caution DPS recommends districts follow the below guidelines when assessing the proper course of action that best meets their needs.

Prior to submitting any request to install a school bus partition or sneeze guard, DPS is requesting school districts first obtain specifications of the partition to be installed as well as documentation certifying the partition will meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses after the installation has been completed. This documentation will need to be obtained for each bus to ensure proper safety standard documentation. Districts should contact their local school bus distributor or manufacturer in order to obtain the appropriate safety standard certification information. In the event documentation of FMVSS standards is unavailable, we recommend districts follow current [CDC](#), [OSHA](#) and [Arizona Department of Education](#) transportation guidelines for the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), which may include the use of face masks, face shields and hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

Please contact Student Transportation at 602-223-2646 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

DPS- STU