

## Transfinder-NAPT Webinar

### Questions and Answers

**1.) I have read some info about UVC (ultraviolet light) killing the virus and being used in mass transit. Does anyone have any thoughts on using UVC devices to disinfect school buses? Cost, effectiveness, safety, etc.?** *S.C. did some initial research into using UV light for school bus disinfecting. Our research indicated that with all the possible "hidden" locations that are inherent on a school, that it just wouldn't be as practical or effective as using an electrostatic fogging machine. It typically takes around 30 seconds of direct UV exposure to kill 100% of the Vovid-19 virus. You can completely "fog" a bus with an electrostatic sprayer in 2-3 minutes. The disinfectant spray that is dispensed from the sprayer is positively charged and is drawn to surfaces similar to steel to a magnet, thus helping to ensure that it comes into contact with surfaces that would be difficult for UV light to reach, especially for 30 seconds. Maybe we install UV emitting dome/interior lights???* SC uses 180 centralized parking locations for the buses. We have ordered an electrostatic back pack and hand held sprayer for each of these locations. Total cost for the sprayers is \$379,587.60.

**2.) Any concern with drivers, especially those older with a few medical issues, wearing masks for even an hour on a very hot bus could be dangerous?** *We feel that the driver situation may be more critical than first thought. First, we will not only have the health concerns and additional work/responsibilities related to Covid-19, but also we'll return to a much stronger driver work sector. The virus has increased the demand for driver related positions nationwide which could exacerbate the problem.*

**3.) Has NAPT shared any of these webinars or shared any concern with State Superintendents of Public Education?** *We have a 123 person state task force with one, one transportation representative. I'm currently serving as President-Elect of our state association and I have shared the webinars with the membership and recommended they share with their school administrators.*

**4.) Who should we be contacting, in each of our states, to ensure that Transportation gets a seat at the table to assist in creating guidelines for transportation that are both achievable and don't cause districts to rush to find drivers and vehicles?** *I would recommend your state association as the first source.*

**5.) CDC recommends face coverings for bus drivers. Does any state have recommendations against face coverings while operating a bus? Liability for drivers with breathing conditions or underlying health issues that may cause accidents? Use of Face shields compared to cloth masks?** *(See question #2)*

**6.) For Mike B - any discussion of plexiglass shields for drivers, to separate them from students boarding?** *While there have been various discussions around the country related to physical barriers between the driver's area and the passenger compartment, there are currently*

*a number of problems with it. Listed are some, but not limited to the following; Possible FMVSS regulations, verbally communicating with students, fogging or condensation, emergency exiting for the driver, etc.*

**7.) What is the thought on running buses as 'normal' but where the kids have masks on? Has that been ruled out?** *We (SC) feel that it would be very difficult for students to keep face coverings on. Also, some parents have indicated that they do not want their kids to wear face coverings.*

**8.) Any thoughts on attaching a holder for hand sanitizer and a holder for masks near the door (in case someone doesn't bring their mask)? Also adding Clear dividers between seats and around driver? Is anyone else doing any or some of these?** *We (SC) have given some early thoughts to hand sanitizer, but have given up on the thought due to concerns with students getting it in their eyes, mouths, etc.*

**9.) What about the winter months? Closing windows and running heat?** *This could be a problem as it has been determined that air flow tends to help spread the virus.*

**10.) Thoughts on AC on the buses? Should they be used or not for air circulation?** *We (SC) will probably operate the AC and have 2 windows partially open on each side and possibly the roof hatches.*

**11.) If the CDC states to wear a mask if you can't social distance to protect everyone around you, would requiring a face covering to ride the school bus be an option? If parents don't want their kids wear the masks, then they don't ride?** *(See question 7)*

**12.) Social distancing is 30- 50%. How do you enforce keeping kids with masks to stay on? More personnel?** *(See question 7)*

**13.) The liability issues associated with the CDC recommendation should be a concern, especially the buses in SC that are owned by the State. In SC students must be offered school bus transportation to the school they are zoned to attend. Is the State going to allow students to be seated on the bus in violation of the CDC recommendation?** *I would say that the CDC guidance is just that, guidance. In SC Transportation will be provided and it will ultimately be up to the parents if their children ride or not. We are waiting for a recommendation on capacity from the Department of Health and Environmental Control.*

**14.) If a student's temperature is over CDC recommendation, do you allow them on the bus? if not do you risk leaving students when parents aren't home?** *SC will not recommend checking student's temps and would not leave them if we did. The parents should be responsible and check for symptoms prior to allowing their child leaving the home.*

**15.) When you talk about taking temperatures who specifically would take them? Not the Bus drivers correct?** *In SC the bus drivers will not take the student's temperature. (See question #16)*