



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Finance & Administration / Bureau of Investigation & Compliance / Rm 305
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois 62764

The Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Investigation & Compliance has adopted emergency rules for school buses operated in Illinois regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. These adopted emergency rules have been implemented to assist school bus operators in reducing the spread of Covid-19, while maintaining compliance with state and federal standards. The Covid-19 related rules have been adopted for school buses and multifunction school activity buses to install signage and/or lettering pertaining to Covid-19, hand sanitizer dispensers, and a barrier directly behind the driver. Bus operators are not required to install Covid-19 related signage and/or lettering, hand sanitizer dispensers, or a driver barrier on their buses, but if installed, must adhere to the rules specified below.

Hand Sanitizer Dispenser

Dispenser must be securely installed in the driver/entry area, either behind the handrail or just to the right of the driver on the vertical portion of the dash in a location where hand sanitizer cannot drip or leak onto the entryway or passenger walkway. The dispenser must not be mounted as to cause a catch point to passengers as they enter or exit the bus.

Dispenser must be labeled with the words “sanitizer” or “hand sanitizer”.

Driver Protection Barrier

A driver protection barrier panel may be installed directly behind the driver. The panel must be mounted to the wall of the bus as flush as practical. If installed, the passenger seat directly behind the driver must be rendered inoperative (this can be accomplished by removing the lower seat cushion) to comply with FMVSS 571.222. If the lower seat cushion is removed, all exposed seat frame must be padded in compliance with FMVSS 571.302. The panel shall be constructed of clear material compliant with FMVSS 571.302 such as polycarbonate. The end of the barrier panel exposed to the passenger compartment shall be secured to a padded stanchion extending from the floor to the ceiling and a solid connection point on the floor. The barrier panel shall be in compliance with FMVSS 571.302 and FMVSS 571.222.

Covid-19 Related Lettering/Signage

Lettering/signage which relates to Covid-19 (e.g., assigned seating for students, social distancing, face coverings, guidance adopted by the bus operator, etc.) may be installed on the interior of the bus. The lettering may be installed on the forward face of the seat backs or seat cushions, ceiling, or bulkhead and shall not interfere with other required lettering.