

## **Update: Returning to Full Capacity and Courtesy Seating on Elementary School Routes**

April 8, 2022

As a result of the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions announced by the Ministry of Education, Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) will be making service adjustments in Peel Region over the coming weeks that will result in a return to full capacity on all buses and the reinstatement of courtesy seating for elementary students, subject to availability. During the pandemic, Peel Public Health recommended capacity restrictions on buses and the suspension of all courtesy ridership in order to promote physical distancing.

### **Returning to Full Capacity on all Buses**

STOPR is now reviewing all elementary school bus runs to maximize the seating capacity on each vehicle.

As STOPR makes these changes to the transportation network, it is important for families to understand that students may be re-assigned to a new school bus route or may have a minor time change to their pickup or drop off times. There may also be some instances where a school bus stop location will need to change.

Schools will notice a higher-than-normal rate of changes to their bus routes as STOPR consolidates bus runs and eliminates extra vehicles that were added to accommodate COVID-related physical distancing.

Schools will automatically receive these changes from STOPR through their *Bus Planner* system and will advise students of their transportation changes. Additionally, parents/guardians are encouraged to visit the STOPR website, <https://www.stopr.ca> to set up an account which will enable them to check their children's transportation details. By setting up an account, parents will also receive delay, cancellation, and general notices.

Parents are further encouraged to follow STOPR on Twitter, [@STOPRinfo](https://twitter.com/STOPRinfo), to receive important transportation information and updates.

Due to the higher-than-normal rate of changes over the next little while, it is important that families monitor service adjustments closely with their school.

### **Courtesy Seating**

Once all bus routes have been reviewed and full seating capacity has been restored by STOPR for all eligible students, schools will be in a position to once again offer courtesy seats to elementary students, subject to seating availability.

Parents can apply for a courtesy seat by filling out an Application Form (TFL004) found on the STOPR website, <https://www.stopr.ca>

Parents should forward their completed application directly to their school starting the week of April 25. Starting the week of May 2, STOPR will begin to assign students to available courtesy seats.



## Parent Information Bulletin

### Update: Returning to Full Capacity and Courtesy Seating on Elementary School Routes

Please note that any courtesy seating granted would only remain in effect for the remainder of the current 2021-2022 school year. It is anticipated that STOPR will provide information in September 2022 about the courtesy seating application process for the 2022-2023 school year.

We appreciate your continued patience and cooperation as these important service adjustments are made.