



**Date: January 16, 2022**

**Re: Full return to in-person learning and resumption of all transportation services**

With all transportation services resuming Monday January 17, 2022, STWDSTS wants to advise students and families that STWDSTS may encounter higher than normal rates of absence for school vehicle drivers due to COVID-19 and the Omicron variant.

In addition to the normal delays related to weather and traffic, routes may be delayed or cancelled due to a reduced pool of school vehicle drivers, spare drivers, and support staff at the school bus companies due to isolation protocols.

Routes may also be cancelled due to school staff shortages or student attendance issues at your local school. While local schools and board staff will employ numerous strategies to ensure that student safety is maintained, in some extreme cases, classes and/or schools may have to transition back to remote learning.

Families should check local school and school board websites for updates and follow directions to return to in-person or remote learning as required.

The cancellation of a school vehicle route is a last resort for STWDSTS, however, based on the current level of infection locally and provincially, cancellation of a school route is a definite possibility. Please have a plan in place to transition temporarily to remote learning.

If you have not already done so, please register for notifications on the [Parent portal](#) or check the [Bus Delays](#) page on the [STWDSTS.ca](#) website for the most up-to-date and accurate school vehicle and route information.

With the current health isolation protocols in effect, routes may be delayed or cancelled for an extended period of 5-10 days.

Please remember to support your local school vehicle driver. If the driver is covering a late route and is not your regular driver, they have most likely already completed their regularly assigned route and are helping to make sure that your children can get to school on their route for in-person learning. These are unprecedented times, and everyone is doing what they can help to support the students return to in-person learning.

Please continue to follow screening, distancing, masking and hand hygiene protocols to help keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Thank you

**The STWDSTS Team**