



FACT SHEET: BACK TO SCHOOL

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The start of a new school year signals the end of summer and summer vacations. Back to work and back to school means that there will be heavier traffic and school buses will be back on the road. The beginning of a new school year is a great time to review your family's emergency plan with your children, to remind your children where to meet if an emergency occurs and to go over safety rules for getting to and from school.

Know What to Do:

On the Road:

- ◆ Watch for children walking, cycling, and waiting for or getting off schools buses.
- ◆ Observe school speed zones. Be vigilant in schools zones where children might be crossing or even who might change direction mid-way.
- ◆ Obey crossing guards. Always follow the crossing guard's direction as they might see a child that you cannot see from your vehicle.
- ◆ Watch for school bus signal lights. Never pass a school bus if the signal lights are flashing as a child might be crossing the road.

At Home:

- ◆ Take time to remind your child about crossing the road safely, wearing a helmet while cycling and staying safe waiting for and on the school bus.
- ◆ Talk to your children about your family emergency plan and what to do and where you will meet, if you are not together when an emergency occurs.

School Bus Safety:

- ◆ Children should wait away from the road and stay back until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- ◆ Find a seat as quickly as possible and sit properly, facing forward at all times.
- ◆ Keep the volume down as the bus driver needs to concentrate to drive the bus safely.

Be informed:

- ◆ Read the information that the school sends home about the school's emergency procedures and alternate locations for student pick up or drop off.
- ◆ Be allergy aware and pack safe school lunches. Many schools have policies to prevent students from bringing in certain food items in their lunches. Knowing the food(s) to avoid will keep students safe.

Prepare Now

- ◆ Provide the school with your current contact information including home, mobile, and work telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.
- ◆ Make sure your child knows the name, address and phone numbers of parents or guardians. Children should also know how to contact a second responsible adult.



Sources:

Get Prepared Website (Government of Canada):
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/sfttps/tp201309-eng.as>