As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, family life can get pretty hectic. It’s important to remember and share with your children some key tips that will help them stay safe. Whether your children will be physically attending or engaging in distance learning there are still ways to keep them safe.

**Drivers**

- Consider adding more time to your commute, because when buses stop to pick up students, other drivers need to also stop.
- Yellow flashing lights mean slow down, don’t speed up because the bus is preparing to stop. There are likely students waiting to get on the bus or parents waiting nearby to pick up children.
- Red flashing lights mean stop. Wait at least 20 feet behind the bus, because children are getting on or off the school bus.
- Even when lights aren’t flashing, watch for children, particularly in the morning or mid-afternoon, around school arrival and dismissal times.

**Parents**

- Talk bus safety with your children and teach them to play it SAFE:
  - Stay five steps away from the curb.
  - Always wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver tells you to board.
  - Face forward after finding a seat on the bus.
  - Exit the bus when it stops and look left-right-left.

**Plan and Prepare**

- Practice and reinforce good prevention habits with your family.
- Keep your child at home if sick with any illness.
- Be prepared if your child’s school or child care facility is temporarily closed.
- Talk to your school about options for digital and distance learning.
- Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed.

**Continue to Practice Social Distancing**

For more information on back to school safety tips and checklists visit: [https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/seasonal-safety/back-to-school](https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/seasonal-safety/back-to-school)