

**Lancashire County Council**  
**School Transport Policy and Guidance**  
As at 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Covid -19 Guidance to Schools**

**Please note: Government guidance is constantly changing and the information below is based on the current guidance and may be updated.**

Wherever possible students should continue to follow government advice and avoid public transport and instead walk, cycle or get a lift with a member of their household, but for some this will not be possible.

**Face Coverings**

As of the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the government has made it a legal requirement for people to wear a cloth face covering (not medical mask) on public transport. However there are certain exemptions to this requirement.

- a child under the age of 11
- an employee of the transport operator, when they are acting in the course of their employment
- if you have a physical or mental illness or impairment, or a disability that means you cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering would cause you severe distress
- if you are travelling with, or providing assistance to, someone who relies on lip reading to communicate
- if you need to eat, drink, or take medication you can remove your face covering

This list is not exhaustive and a full list of exemptions can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

As you will be aware some students use county council contracted bus services (dedicated school transport) to travel to/from school whilst others use commercial public transport services. The government has stated that it will not be mandatory for students that use dedicated school bus services to wear face coverings. However, the county council is recommending that students (aged 11 years and over) wear face coverings on the dedicated school services to align with commercial service users. This is only a recommendation and not mandatory.

Guidance on making and wearing a face covering can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

The face covering should be worn before boarding the bus and removed after departure. A clean face covering should be worn on AM and PM journeys. Used face coverings should be stored appropriately in plastic bags until they can be washed.

### **Hygiene**

Students should be reminded that personal hygiene is very important. One of the key messages from Public Health England is that we should all be washing or sanitising our hands regularly. If you are using hand sanitizing gel should have an alcohol base of a minimum 60%. Hands should be washed before and after journeys. Please refer to the attached- Public Health England "Best Practice: How to hand wash step by step images" and "Best Practice: How to handrub step by step images" for more information.

Bus operators have been instructed to conduct enhanced cleaning regimes to ensure Covid-19 hygiene standards are met.

### **Social Distancing**

Under current guidelines the capacity of school transport vehicles has been reduced to ensure social distancing is maintained. Students should pay particular attention to where they can and cannot sit. Operators may have rearranged or removed seating. There may be warning tape across seating which should not be used. There may be arrows on the vehicle floors. Students should be alert.

When boarding the bus students should fill the vehicle from the rear to the front to reduce passenger contact.

When queuing for the bus, social distancing should be maintained where possible. If queues become too long in unsafe areas then school staff/parents/operators should liaise with school bus services to see how this could be managed.

### **School bus fares/passes**

Season tickets/passes and fares will not be taken on school buses for the remainder of this academic year, July 2020.

### **Antisocial behaviour**

If a student fails to comply at any point during the journey, or the driver has concerns about the conduct of a student, they must report this to their supervisor so that Lancashire County Council and school can take appropriate action.

This guidance has been issued to help keep students and drivers safe during the journey.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the continued safety of school transport services in Lancashire.