

Home to School Transport for Pupils

Important information for taxi, bus and
coach operators

September 2020

The COVID-19 situation means that the way home to school transport will operate in September will need to change.

- ▶ Follow the Government guidance which is designed to keep children and young people safe, as well as drivers and passenger assistants
- ▶ Share this guidance with your staff and ensure they are fully aware.

General advice

- Drivers and passenger assistants must not report in for work, or drive a vehicle, if they, or a member of their household, has symptoms of COVID-19
- Drivers and passenger assistants must not travel if they are self-isolating as a result of COVID-19 symptoms or sharing a household or support bubble with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms
- Drivers and passenger assistants must not travel if they have been advised by the NHS Test and Trace Service to self-isolate.

Transport company expectations

- All routes will operate in September 2020 as per their normal pre-COVID-19 timetables – there will be no staggered arrival or departure arrangements
- In order to reduce the need for handling money, pupils who do not have a free bus pass and pay a fare on dedicated school bus services, will be required to pay a £1.00 standard charge. The correct fare should be given and placed into a container. No change will be given
- On public services where pupils travel, to enable social distancing, operators should minimise the number of passengers from the general public by:
 - Closing the service to the general public
 - Or reserving seats and not allow members of the public to use them
- Bus, coach and taxi operators must have enhanced vehicle cleaning in place. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned after each journey wherever possible and deeper cleaning should take place at the end of each day. Normal cleaning products will kill the COVID-19 virus on surfaces - specialist products are not needed. For the full guidance refer to:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators

- Windows/skylights should be open to allow maximum ventilation, where possible and if weather dependent
- If capacity allows, bus and coach operators should leave a row of seats between each year group and keep the front seats empty
- No face to face seating will be allowed (only side by side)
- Bus and coach operators should provide hand sanitiser at the entrance of the bus if safe to do so. Taxis are required to carry small containers of hand sanitiser
- Drivers and passenger assistants are not required to wear a face covering but may choose to do so, dependent upon company risk assessments and the requirements of some children
- Drivers must not refuse entry to any pupil who is not wearing a face covering as they may be exempt. They should not ask for medical evidence, instead they should raise any concerns with their manager or the school staff
- Drivers will be required to do what they reasonably can in terms of promoting COVID-19 safety measures on their vehicles, however they will not be expected to enforce seating plans, alighting or disembarking procedures, or the wearing of face coverings as they have to concentrate on driving safely and should not be distracted
- Drivers should report any behaviour concerns to the school or to their manager so that appropriate action can be taken.

Pupil expectations

- On mainstream bus services, pupils over the age of 11 must wear a face covering when boarding, during the journey and when they get off the vehicle. However some may have legitimate reasons not to wear a face covering. Pupils with a physical or mental condition or impairment, or a disability are exempt from wearing of face coverings – for full guidance refer to:

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#face-coverings

- As pupils load at each stop, they should sit with those from their year group “bubble” in repeating patterns throughout the vehicle
- Pupils are being encouraged to wash their hands before the journey and as soon as possible afterwards, when they get into school or home
- Pupils are being encouraged to have their own sanitiser as well as some tissues in case they need to cough or sneeze
- Pupils are being encouraged to travel in year group “bubbles”, so to keep different year groups from mixing, pupils should:
 - Board the vehicle in ascending year groups. The eldest should board first and sit towards the rear of the vehicle and the youngest should board last and sit towards the front
 - As pupils load at each stop, they should sit with those from their year group “bubble” in repeating patterns
- Where possible, pupils should sit in the same seat each day
- Pupils should sit facing forwards and not turn around to talk to their friends
- Where possible, pupils should not shout, talk loudly or sing, as this may help spread the virus
- Where possible, pupils should avoid touching anything other than their own possessions.

This is the latest information at the time of going to print and is based on Government advice. We regularly update our website at derbyshire.gov.uk/septschooltransport with the latest information for parents.

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