

## SCHOOL TRANSPORT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – ADVICE FOR PARENTS

The following [Government guidance](#) on safer travel during Coronavirus (COVID-19) is something you need to consider before using school transport.

This advice is effective from 16th June 2020 and will be kept under review as further guidance becomes available.

- **Public transport should be avoided where possible, instead walk, cycle, or drive your child to school**
  - To help keep your child and fellow students safe, your child should not travel if:
    - They are experiencing any [coronavirus symptoms](#)
    - They are [self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms or sharing a household with somebody with symptoms](#)
    - They are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#)
  - Social distancing applies to children as well as adults. Children should keep their distance from others who are not in their household, where possible. Public Health England recommends [keeping a 2 metre distance from others](#). If this isn't possible children should avoid physical contact, face away from others, and keep the time spent near others as short as possible
  - Your child should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise their hands before the journey and as soon as possible after the journey
  - When traveling in taxis or private hire vehicles your child should follow the advice of the driver. For example, they may be asked to sit in the back left hand seat if travelling alone. If they need to be near other people they should avoid physical contact, try not to be face to face with other people, and keep the time spent near other people as short as possible. Be aware of the surfaces they or others touch
  - Face coverings:
    - If your child is 11 years old or older they must wear a face covering when traveling on public transport – bus services open to the public and trains
    - It is not a legal requirement for your child to wear a face covering when traveling on a dedicated school transport vehicle
    - If your child does wear a face covering they must be able to use a face covering as per the directions below and will require 2 face coverings per day one for the journey there and one for the journey back
    - Some people may not be able to wear a face covering, for example primary aged children, people with breathing difficulties and people whose disabilities makes it difficult for them to wear or manage a face covering
    - The driver and support staff and other passengers may be wearing face coverings, you should talk to your child about this before the journey
    - A face covering is not the same as the surgical masks or respirators used by healthcare and other workers as part of personal protective equipment. These should continue to be reserved for those who need them to protect against risks in their workplace, such as health and care workers, and those in industrial settings, like those exposed to dust hazards
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- Wearing a face covering
  - A cloth face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably. It can be as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head
  - Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser before putting it on and after taking it off. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth at all times and store used face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them
  - Do not touch the front of the face covering, or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with your mouth and nose. Once removed, make sure you clean any surfaces the face covering has touched
  - You should wash a face covering regularly. It can go in with other laundry, using your normal detergent
  - When wearing a face covering, take care to tuck away any loose ends
  - Please follow Government guidance on [how to make a face covering](#)

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