

For parents and carers

Does your child take the bus to school?

The number of Covid-19 cases in the county is rising, and there have been some recent cases within schools across the county.

We know that some children will spend a significant amount of time travelling to and from school on dedicated or public bus services, taxi or minibus. It's crucial that they follow the relevant guidance, not only in school, but also on the journey to and from.

We would encourage you to talk to your child about the steps they can take to keep themselves and your family safe, when using home to school transport.

- **FACE.** All students are expected to wear a face covering unless there is a specific reason they cannot do so. This includes those who travel on public transport, and those brought to school by taxi or minibus. Two reusable face coverings will have been provided for your child at the start of the academic year.
- **SPACE:** Social distancing should be maximised within vehicles at all times. Students need to sit in their correct bubbles and not try to sit by their friend in a different year. On busy routes where every seat needs to be used there will be students from different year groups sat by each other as this is unavoidable when bubbles are adjacent.
- **OPEN WINDOWS AND VENTS.** Fresh air (from outside the vehicle) should be maximised, particularly through opening windows and ceiling vents. Students should not close windows at any point.
- **WAITING AT THE BUS STOP:** Students need to social distance from each other whilst waiting at bus stops, only students from the same household or year group should stand together. Like many of the above measures we are dependent on students taking responsibility for this themselves and being sensible.
- **CLEANING OF VEHICLES:** Our operators have increased their cleaning schedules on the vehicles and they will be thoroughly cleaned each day and cleaned between different bubbles using the vehicle.

Children must not board home to school transport if they, or a member of their household, has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If your child develops a high temperature, new and continuous cough or the loss of taste or smell, please inform the school and ensure that they self isolate at home. If they develop symptoms at school you will be asked to collect them directly and take them home to self isolate.

If your child is identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19, they should still self isolate at home for 14 days, even if they receive a negative test result as it can take up to this amount of time for the virus to appear.

