



Education Resources
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Support Services (7 August 2020)

MAINSTREAM TRANSPORT GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS CARERS & TRANSPORT PROVIDERS COVID -19

On the 16 July 2020, The Scottish Government's Advisory Sub Group on Education and Children's Issues published guidance on school transport provision to support the managed return of pupils on 12 August.

It states that 'dedicated school transport will be regarded as an extension of the school estate and physical distancing measures between pupils are not necessary'.

The Council is required to put in place appropriate mitigations to help reduce the spread of the virus in schools and educational settings including hygiene, ventilation, improved cleaning routines, incorporating frequent and thorough cleaning of surfaces, and regular handwashing. We are all asked to ensure that we adhere to the public health guidance to keep us all safe through good hygiene practice,

Transport Providers and drivers/passenger assistants should follow the undernoted guidance outlining the practices which they should adopt at this challenging time prior to and after the delivery of school transport to avoid the potential spread of Covid-19 infection.

Please note that the situation is fluid and changes could be made in the coming weeks depending on the suppression of the virus.

Contractors should:

- Continue to work with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) with regards to the enhanced maintenance of vehicles.
- Ensure adults travelling on dedicated school transport conform to the Scottish Government advice with regards to use of face coverings and physical distancing and are followed.
- Ensure adults travelling on the vehicle use hand sanitiser at intervals throughout the journey always do so after helping a child into the vehicle or assisting with their belongings.
- Work with the school to assign children the same seat to be used consistently when travelling to and from school.
- Ensure an enhanced cleaning regime is in place on every vehicle.
- The 2 seats immediately behind the driver where possible should be left empty unless the driver is screened off
- Drivers should wear a face covering when children are entering and leaving the vehicle, unless screened off

Parents/Carers should follow the undernoted guidance outlining the cleaning/sanitisation practices which they should adopt for their child at this challenging time prior to entering home to school transport provision to help avoid the potential spread of the Covid19 virus.

- Children/young people should not board dedicated school transport if they, or a member of their household have symptoms of Covid-19 (high temp/coughing).
- If a child or young person develops symptoms while at school, they will not be transported home by their school transport provider. Instead the school will contact the parent/carer who should make appropriate and safe arrangements to collect the child or young person from the school and book a Covid-19 test.

- Good respiratory hygiene should be encouraged (“Catch it, kill it, bin it”). Children and young people should be encouraged to carry tissues.
- Before entering the vehicle ensure their child/young person washes their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water before leaving the house.
- After exiting the vehicle and on entering the school, children and young people must clean their hands. Hands should be cleaned again before going back onto the bus at the end of the school day.
- If any child requires a small supply of hand sanitiser, they should contact their school.
- There is no requirement to wear face coverings on dedicated school transport, however, should someone choose to do so that is at their discretion.
- Physical distancing should be applied at bus stops. When the vehicle arrives, parent/carers should remain at a 2-metre distance to allow the driver to open the passenger door.
- Parents and schools are encouraged to ensure that family groups, children and young people in the same class groups should travel together to reduce unnecessary mixing.
- Child/young person should use the same seat travelling to and from school.
- During the journey child/young person should not move from their designated seat.
- During the journey child/young person should not consume food or drink.
- During the journey, where possible, child/young person should refrain from touching surfaces, seats, windows, and handles.
- Children/young people should follow the guidance and instruction provided by the driver, this will help protect them and help ensure the safety of others.
- Where children travel on public service buses the Scottish Government Guidance with regard to physical distancing and use of face coverings must be followed.

Other points:

- If you have previously applied and been granted school transport your contract will operate as normal. If you are unsure of the pickup and drop off points please contact SPT on telephone number 0141 333 3360
- If your child/children are a new P1 or S1 and you have not applied for designated school transport you should apply using the following link
 - https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/545/school_transport
- Where pupils do not qualify for school transport –
 - Privilege transport will not be allocated until October
 - https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/545/school_transport
 - Public Transport will be available however as long as physical distancing measures stay in place there will be capacity constraints which will impact on children and young people’s ability to travel to school. Therefore, it is recommended that children should be encouraged to use all sustainable and active modes of transport possible, walking, cycling, scooting etc.