

Dear parents and carers,

School transport advice during the Covid-19 pandemic – Autumn Term 2020

We previously issued guidance on the use of school and college transport for the Autumn term in a letter in July 2020. Following the release of further guidance from Government this information has now been updated

We recommend that you follow the updated Government guidance summarised in this letter to help to keep your child safe and talk to your child about the general advice and rules for their particular type of service before they travel.

General advice

- 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 or support bubble with somebody with symptoms](#)
 - They are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) and cannot shield during their journey
 - They have been advised by the [NHS test and trace service](#) to self-isolate
- The requirements for social distancing on board vehicles will depend on the type of service your child is using. You will need to ensure that your child is aware of the requirements for their particular service. Where possible children should keep their distance from others who are not in their household. Public Health England recommends that people stay two metres apart from others who are outside their household or support bubble, or a '[one metre plus](#)' approach where this is not possible. 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.
- Social distancing should be maintained whilst queuing, boarding and alighting a vehicle where possible.

Dedicated school and college transport vehicles

- All routes will operate in September as per their normal pre-Covid-19 timetables.
- Government guidance has confirmed that social distancing on dedicated school and college transport vehicles will not be mandatory from September 2020 (unlike travel on the public transport network). However, where possible distancing within vehicles should be maintained.
 - The Government has stated that this takes into account that pupils on dedicated school or college services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of two metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a 'one metre plus' approach where this is not possible, will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport.
 - Your child should however sit with their 'bubble' on school transport, or with the same constant group of children each day.
- Face coverings for students aged 11 and over are recommended but not mandatory.
- 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.
- 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. To facilitate this the council is providing all school transport operators with hand sanitiser for staff and students to use.
- To promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach you should ensure your child carries tissues on home to school transport. These will need to be disposed of in a covered bin as soon as possible.
- Transport operators have been advised to clean frequently touched surfaces after each journey wherever possible, and to carry out enhanced cleaning at the end of each day.
- Transport operators have been advised to ensure good ventilation of fresh air wherever possible by keeping windows, or roof lights open.
- Government guidance exempts employees of the transport operator from wearing face coverings when they are acting in the course of their employment, however some employees may choose to wear a face covering as a personal choice.
- Passenger records will be maintained and made available for the purpose of the [NHS test and trace service](#).
- 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.

Public bus and rail services

- The Government advises that capacity on public transport remains limited given the requirements for social distancing; this will be particularly challenging for children and young people who travel to school or college by public bus or train. The government advice is for children and young people to avoid public transport and to walk or cycle to school where possible. We advise parents and carers to plan ahead early to ensure their child can travel to and from school or college safely.
- Face coverings are mandatory on public transport for children aged 11 and over.
- Some public bus services will be closed to the general public and will operate as student only services using the dedicated vehicle control measures described above.

Face coverings

- A cloth face covering should cover your child's mouth and nose whilst allowing your child to breathe comfortably. The covering can be as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head.
- Your child should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser before putting on the face covering or taking it off. Your child should avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth at all times and should store used face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them.
- They should not touch the front of the face covering, or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with their mouth and nose. Once removed, any surfaces that have been in contact with the covering will need to be thoroughly cleaned.
- Face coverings must be washed regularly and can be included with other laundry, using your normal detergent.
- When wearing a face covering, your child will need to tuck away any loose ends.
- The Government has provided guidance on [how to make a face covering](#).

Additional public transport capacity

The council has worked closely with transport operators across the County to identify where social distancing may restrict students ability to travel, a number of additional services will be operating in these areas to increase capacity, these are listed below.

These additional services will operate alongside the existing services unless indicated otherwise. Timetable information will be available on the [council's website](#) and www.Traveline.info from 27th August

No.	Operator	Route	School(s)
862	Sargeants Bros	Hereford - Weobley High School via Whitecross & Credenhill, 2 buses AM at 08:05 from A480 main road and 08:23 from Credenhill village, 2 buses PM from Weobley schools at 15:35	Weobley Schools
861/461	Sargeants Bros	Kington – Hereford and return, 2 buses AM at 07:15 from Kington and 2 buses PM departing Hereford at 16:30 and 17:00	Hereford Colleges
437	Yeomans	Tillington Common - Hereford via Burghill & Whitecross	Whitecross & City schools
453	Yeomans	Fownhope - Hereford via Woolhope, Mordiford, Hampton Bishop & Bishop's School	Bishop's School
454	Yeomans	Hereford - Holme Lacy College via Putson & Rotherwas	Holme Lacy College
33	Stagecoach	Gloucester - Hereford via Ross-on-Wye & John Kyrle High School	John Kyrle High School & Hereford colleges
36	Stagecoach	Monmouth - Hereford via St Weonards & Wormelow	Hereford Colleges
T14	Stagecoach	Brecon - Hereford via Hay-on-Wye, Peterchurch, Kingstone	Hereford Colleges
X3	Stagecoach	Hereford to Abergavenny PM journey 16:20	Hereford Colleges
71	Yeomans	Credenhill - Hereford via Kings Acre & Whitecross	Whitecross & City schools
420/469	DRM	Bromyard - Hereford	Colleges & City schools
476	DRM	Ledbury - Hereford via Trumpet, Tarrington, St Mary's RC High School, Bishop's School & Hereford Colleges	St Mary's RC High School, Bishop's School & Colleges
449	Yeomans	Hereford - Kingstone High School via Belmont & Clehonger	Kingstone Schools
809	Yeomans	Whitecross - Fairfield High School via Hereford, Belmont, Clehonger & Madley	Fairfield School
401/402	Lugg Valley	Barons' Cross & Ridgemoor to Leominster Junior School via Leominster Bus Station	Leominster Junior School

Further information

The latest school transport information relating to the coronavirus visit: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schooltransportcovid19

For advice on the coronavirus visit: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

For the latest Government advice on the coronavirus pandemic visit: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

School Transport Team
Herefordshire Council

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