

# COVID19 POSITION STATEMENT

## MAINSTREAM SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Based on information supplied in the updated Government's guidance for schools published on **29<sup>th</sup> November 2021** the council's position statement for the delivery of transport of eligible mainstream students is detailed below. Transport for eligible students is supplied on dedicated transport and wider public transport. Dedicated transport means services that are used only to carry pupils to school, wider public transport means routes which are also used by the general public.

The position statement for **dedicated transport** is as follows:

### **Leicestershire County Council:**

1. strongly recommend the wearing of face coverings for all children and young people aged 11 years and over travelling on dedicated school transport services.
2. will ensure transport providers continue to maintain appropriate vehicle cleansing routines and ensure vehicles are well ventilated.
3. plan transport in the most efficient logistical manner using the majority of the vehicle's available seating capacity.
4. do not allow standing passengers on any dedicated school transport or commercial school services provided solely for school pupils (does not include public transport services).

### **The Operator/Drivers will:**

be required to undertake a number of additional operational precautions both pre and post journey which should include:

1. wear face coverings where possible, but this will not be mandatory.
2. ensure good hygiene.
  - Hand hygiene
  - Respiratory hygiene
3. maintain regular cleaning regimes using standard products such as detergents.
4. ensure appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and maintained particularly focused on frequently touched surfaces.
5. ensure the vehicle is well ventilated.
6. provide appropriate signage related to COVID19.
7. where reasonably possible fit protective shields for the driver.
8. work in connection with schools to board students by filling the seats from the rear first and alight from the front.
9. ensure that all students are safely seated.
10. avoid physical contact with all passenger unless they require assistance entering and exiting the vehicle.
11. stand down with immediate effect drivers reporting symptoms of COVID-19 and follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. **Please see page 5 for further details.**

**Students should:**

1. ensure face coverings are worn where recommended.
2. wash/sanitise hands **before** and **after** every journey (however on-board sanitisers to be provided on bus if required).
3. remain seated and facing forward at all times.
4. avoid touching any surfaces unless absolutely necessary.
5. fill the rear seats of the vehicle first and alight from the front where appropriate.
6. sit in the same groups on every journey where possible.
7. not eat or drink on the vehicle.
8. follow the advice/instructions of the driver or school staff.
9. limit the amount of luggage.

**Students showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive for COVID-19 must not use transport and should follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Please see page 5 below for further details.**

**LCC's position statement for wider public transport is as follows:**

Where transport is provided on wider public transport students will need to meet the conditions of the transport operator which may vary dependant on the operator.

**Passengers:**

1. must wear face coverings where required by the operator or mandated by the Government, unless exempt.
2. should wash or sanitise their hands before and after their journey.
3. should use contactless payment where possible.
4. should avoid touching any surfaces unless absolutely necessary.
5. should not eat or drink on the vehicle.
6. should follow the advice/instructions of the driver.

**Students showing symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 must not use transport and should follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Please see page 5 below for further details.**

## **SEN SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Based on information supplied in the updated Government's guidance for schools published on **29<sup>th</sup> November 2021** the council's position statement for the delivery of transport for eligible SEN students is detailed below. Transport for eligible students is supplied on **dedicated transport**. Dedicated transport means services that are used only to carry pupils to school.

The position statement is as follows:

### **Leicestershire County Council will:**

1. encourage students to wear face coverings but note that the majority of students will not be able to effectively wear them, and their use will not be mandatory.
2. ensure that students undergo an individual risk assessment to ensure that suitable transport provision is provided.
3. strongly recommend the use of face coverings for escorts and drivers, and in some cases escorts will be required to wear further PPE and this will be determined by additional risk assessment.
4. plan transport in the most efficient logistical manner using the majority of the vehicle's available seating capacity, if it is safe to do so.

### **The Operator/Drivers & Escorts will:**

be required to undertake a number of additional operational precautions both pre and post journey which should include:

1. wear face coverings where possible, but this will not be mandatory.
2. ensure good hygiene.
  - **Hand hygiene**
  - **Respiratory hygiene**
3. maintain regular cleaning regimes using standard products such as detergents.
4. ensure appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and maintained particularly focused on frequently touched surfaces.
5. ensure the vehicle is well ventilated.
6. provide appropriate signage related to COVID19.
7. where reasonably possible fit protective shields for the driver.
8. work in connection with schools to board students by filling the seats from the rear first and alight from the front.
9. ensure that all students are safely seated.
10. stand down with immediate effect drivers and escorts reporting symptoms of COVID-19 and follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**Please see page 5 below for further details.**

### **Students should:**

1. wear face coverings where possible, but this is not mandatory.
2. wash/sanitise hands **before** and **after** every journey.

3. remain seated and facing forward at all times.
4. avoid touching any surfaces unless absolutely necessary.
5. not eat or drink on the vehicle.
6. limit the amount of luggage.

**Students showing symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 must not use transport and should follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Please see page 5 below for further details.**

## COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test

### **When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test.**

Children, young people and adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not board dedicated transport or public transport if they have symptoms or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine or they are a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19).

If a child or young person develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, while at school or college, they will be sent home.

They should avoid using public or dedicated school transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. In exceptional circumstances if parents or careers cannot arrange to have their child collected alternative arrangements may need to be organised by the school. They and their household should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

### **Asymptomatic testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. All secondary school pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home.

Testing is still widely available, and kits can be collected from a local pharmacy or ordered online.

### **Confirmatory PCR tests**

Children, young people and adults with a positive lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance and they will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whilst awaiting the PCR result the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the lateral flow test result and the individual need no longer self-isolate, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

## **COVID19 Position Statement Mainstream and SEN Home to School Transport**

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