

## **GENERAL GUIDANCE    Dedicated transport to schools and other places of education for Autumn Term 2020, including Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Travel Support**

For the past few months Sefton Travel Support Team has continued to transport vulnerable children and young people to school. We've worked closely with our providers to develop the Sefton GENERIC COVID-19 Home to School Travel Risk Assessment and adopted a range of protective measures. We've provided a summary of the guidance below or you can view the complete document on the Local Offer Website.

More recently we've been planning for all pupils to return to school in September and this is likely to be more of a challenge for us all. We aim to ensure continuity of travel arrangements wherever possible but cannot guarantee that pupils will be transported in the same way they have been previously. We are working hard to ensure all arrangements are in place for the start of term and thank you for your patience at this difficult time.

### **TRAVEL SUPPORT TEAM CONTACT DETAILS**

|                |                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tel</b>     | 0151 934 3399                                                                                                                |
| <b>E-mail</b>  | Travel.Support@sefton.gov.uk                                                                                                 |
| <b>Website</b> | <a href="http://www.sefton.gov.uk/.../home-to-school-transport.aspx">www.sefton.gov.uk/.../home-to-school-transport.aspx</a> |
| <b>Address</b> | Ainsdale Hope Centre<br>Sandringham Road<br>Ainsdale<br>Southport<br>Merseyside<br>PR8 2PJ                                   |

### **PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Sefton has a GENERIC COVID-19 Home to School Transport Risk Assessment which outlines all the protective measures to be undertaken by the Local Authority, schools, providers, parents and carers wherever possible. An INDIVIDUAL COVID-19 risk assessment can be completed by the school for pupils who may require protective measures over and above those outlined in the GENERIC COVID-19 risk assessment for travel support. The range of protective measures include:

#### **Protection**

Children, young people, drivers and personal assistants must not board home to school if they, or a member of their household, has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). If a child or young person develops symptoms whilst at school or their place of education, they should be sent home. They must not travel on home to school transport. The school or place of education must contact the parent or carer who should make arrangements for the child or young person's journey home.

Anyone with symptoms must follow Stay at Home: Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)

Children, young people, drivers and passenger assistants who have been in contact with someone who has developed symptoms whilst at school or on home to school transport do not need to go home to self-isolate unless:

- a. They develop symptoms themselves
- b. The person they were in contact with subsequently tests positive
- c. If they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace

If a person with symptoms has been in a vehicle that provides home to school transport, the vehicle must be cleaned with normal household disinfectant to reduce the risk of passing on the infection to other people.

### **Clean Hands**

Children, young people, drivers and passenger assistants must clean their hands before boarding transport and again on disembarking

Drivers and passenger assistants should use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser at intervals throughout the journey and should always do so after performing tasks such as helping a child into the vehicle or handling a child's belongings.

### **Good Respiratory Hygiene**

Contractors, parents/carers and educational settings should promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Every vehicle should be equipped with hand sanitiser, disposable tissues and a bag or container into which used material can be dropped for secure disposal of later

Schools should have suitable disposal process on arrival, in line with their process for disposing of face coverings.

### **Cleaning**

Contractors and staff should establish a robust cleaning regime of vehicles and share details of this with schools, parents and carers.

Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned after each journey wherever possible and enhanced cleaning should take place at the end of each day.

### **Social Distancing**

From the autumn term local authorities are not required to uniformly apply social distancing guidelines on dedicated school or college transport. However social distancing should still be put in place whenever possible and it is recommended that?

- a) Children and young people from each school should sit together as a group
- b) Children and young people should sit with their bubble or the same group of children/young people each day
- c) Schools and transport providers should put in place arrangements for organised queuing and boarding
- d) Distancing between individual passengers is maximised
- e) Ensure good ventilation of fresh air wherever possible by keeping windows on home to school transport open.

### **Face Coverings**

In accordance with advice from Public Health England, from the autumn term, we recommend that children and young people aged 11 and over wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport. This does not apply to people who are exempt. A face covering is any type of which covers the nose and mouth. A scarf, bandana, religious garment, or hand made cloth covering may also be used.

Children under 11 may wear a face covering if they are able to handle it as directed.

Some children and young people with SEND will not be able to use a face covering properly and should not be expected to do so as this may increase the risk of transmission.

Schools should have a process for children and young people to remove face coverings when they arrive at school.

Some children and young people may be distressed by wearing a face covering, or by others wearing them, others may become distressed if they and other people do not wear them. Face coverings for staff is optional

Face coverings are recommended when staff are unable to maintain social distancing in passenger facing roles, for example when aiding a passenger.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

PPE is not recommended for general use by drivers and escorts, unless the care a child or young person usually receives on home to school transport requires the use of PPE.

### **Engage with Test and Trace**

Drivers and Passenger assistants should book a test if they display coronavirus symptoms

Families should get a test if children and young people are displaying symptoms

## **ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Parents and carers of pupils who are assessed as eligible for home to school travel support may wish to make their own travel arrangements and the Local Authority can support this approach with a Personal Travel Budget. Parents and carers should contact [Travel.Support@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Travel.Support@sefton.gov.uk) for further details

## **FURTHER ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>