



COVID-19: Information for School Transport Governors' Bus Services

Issued: 28th August 2020

Commencing Services

The following information will continue to be reviewed in line with government guidance.

Governors' bus services recommence on Thursday 3rd September 2020 as students begin to return to school.

Thursday 3 Sept	-	Y7, 8, 11, 12 and 13
Friday 4 Sept	-	Y7, 9, 10, 11 and 13
Monday 7 Sept	-	All year groups return to school

Bus passes were sent by post during week commencing 24th August. If you have any queries about bus passes or routes, please contact the Central Finance Team by email: finance@horncastleeducationtrust.org.

Social Distancing

Please support your child to maintain social distancing while queuing at bus stops when waiting to board the bus. We have arrangements in place at the end of the school day to supervise the departure process.

If your child needs your help to get into a vehicle, we recommend that you:

- limit the time you spend in the vehicle,
- wear a face covering,
- wash your hands thoroughly before and after.

All of our Governors' bus services are dedicated for school transport only, therefore social distancing is not required on the vehicles (although of course this will be maximised wherever possible). This is in line with Government guidance because:

- the overall risk to children and young people from coronavirus is very low,
- they do not mix with the public on these journeys,
- dedicated school transport carries the same group regularly. These children may also be together in school,
- it allows for planning to put appropriate protective measures in place.

There is no requirement for students to sit in their school bubble when they are on dedicated school transport. When leaving a vehicle, children will be asked to leave from the front to the back, one deck at a time.

Preventing the risk of infection

We ask for your support to ensure that students understand how to use transport safely. Drivers must focus on driving vehicles safely, they are not responsible for overseeing whether students follow the advice and guidance.

Students must not travel to school if they:

- are experiencing any coronavirus symptoms,
- are self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms,
- are sharing a household or support bubble with somebody with symptoms,
- have been advised by the NHS test and trace service to self-isolate.

If a student becomes unwell during a school day, we will contact you and ask you to make arrangements to collect them. They will not be able to use the bus service in these circumstances.

Students must clean their hands thoroughly before and after using transport. We recommend that they carry a personal supply of tissues to catch any coughs or sneezes. After use, tissues must be disposed of safely in a bin after leaving the vehicle. Once again, students must clean their hands as soon as possible.

Please inform students that they must not consume food or drink whilst on the vehicles.

Our operators have confirmed they have enhanced cleaning routines in place, this will include:

- touch points being regularly wiped down with antibacterial wipes,
- regular deep cleans during and at the end of each day,
- hand sanitiser being in place in all vehicles.

Face coverings

All travellers must wear a face covering on dedicated school transport if they can. Public Health England recommends this for all children aged 11 and over. Students do not need a face covering if they have an exemption, if this is the case please let the Central Finance Team know so that they can inform the transport operator. Whilst we will not refuse to carry students on dedicated school transport if they do not have a face covering, we ask for your support to ensure they are used in order to protect everyone travelling.

There is a process for removing face coverings upon arrival at school:

- remove face coverings from behind the head, without touching the front,
- temporary face coverings must be disposed of in the designated bins,
- reusable face coverings should be stored in a personal plastic bag,
- hands should be cleaned.

Suspected cases on school transport

If a student has been in contact with someone who develops symptoms, they do not need to self-isolate. This applies to any student or driver on school transport. However, if they develop symptoms themselves then they must self-isolate and a test should be arranged.

More information about how to arrange a test can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

If we become aware that someone using the bus service has tested positive for coronavirus we will contact the local Health Protection Team who will work with us and guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on their advice, we must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

If a driver develops coronavirus symptoms or tests positive, we will liaise closely with the transport operator regarding continuation of the service, however, it is possible that a situation may arise where we may not be able to provide transport. If this occurs, you may need to transport your children to school until we can resume normal arrangements.

If you have any queries about our Governors bus services, please contact the Central Finance Team by email: finance@horncastleeducationtrust.org.