

**People Directorate**  
**Quality Improvement Manager: David Strang**  
**Education Support Services**

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Our Ref: JA/DS

Your Ref:

Date: as postmark

If phoning or calling ask for Central Transport Team on 01292 612284



**School Transport**

**COVID-19 Guidance – Secondary Return – 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Dear Parent / Carer,

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March the First Minister provided updated guidance on school transport provision to support the phased return of more secondary school pupils from the 15<sup>th</sup> March until the Easter break. During this period 1m social distancing will be introduced on school transport where it is possible to do so. Reassuringly, the Advisory Sub-group to the Scottish Government has noted that school transport has not been cited as a significant source of transmission and that local authorities and transport operators have taken considerable steps to put in place mitigations to reduce the risk of infection to passengers and drivers. This includes young people hand sanitising before getting in the vehicle, sitting in a designated seat within the vehicle, opening windows to improve ventilation and ensuring regular cleaning of the vehicle before each journey.

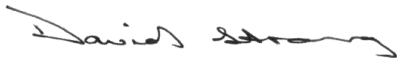
**Parents/Carers** should follow the undernoted guidance and discuss with their child/ren to heighten awareness of the cleaning / sanitation practices which they should adopt at this challenging time prior to entering contracted home to school transport to suppress the spread of Covid 19 infection.

- Encourage their secondary aged child/ren to participate in the lateral flow testing programme that the school will have informed them about
- Young people should not board dedicated school transport if they, or a member of their household have symptoms of Covid 19
- If a young person develops symptoms while at school they will be sent home. They must not travel on regular home-to-school transport. The school should contact the parent/carer who should make appropriate and safe arrangements to collect the child or young person from the school
- Ensure their child washes their hands for 20 seconds using soap and hot water prior to leaving the house and on return
- Young people should wear face masks while travelling on school transport unless they are exempt
- Once the passenger door is opened the young person should enter the vehicle in an orderly manner and dispense hand gel from an identified point within the vehicle
- The young person should sit in a designated seat to ensure a safe 1 metre distance from others

- During the journey the young person should not move from their seat
- During the journey the young person should not open or consume food/drink
- During the journey, where possible, the young person should refrain from touching surfaces, seats, windows and handles
- Dedicated school transport is covered by a Code of Conduct and in these challenging times it is crucial that young people behave on the vehicle to protect themselves and to help ensure the safety of others
- Young people should respect the guidance and instruction provided by the driver
- Any behaviour that does not meet the Code of Conduct standard will result in the young person being removed from eligibility to receive free school transport

If you would like to discuss or have concerns about your child's specific transport journey please contact the Education Central Transport Team on 01292 612284 or speak directly with a member of the school transport team.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Strang', written in a cursive style.

**David Strang**  
**Quality Improvement Manager**