



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

All schools and academies
MAT CEOs

**County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's
Services**

Date: 9th December 2020

Dear colleague,

Home to School Transport Updates

Please find below information relating to the change in Government advice regarding the wearing of face coverings on dedicated school buses issued on 2nd December. Your support so far has been much appreciated by the council and contractors alike and it is hoped we can work together to make the required adjustments in approach.

Guidance on Face Coverings

Until last week, Government advice stated that passengers on dedicated school buses should be **'encouraged'** to wear face coverings while travelling. From 2nd December, in accordance with updated advice from Public Health England, children and young people aged 11 and over **'must'** wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college, unless they are exempt.

The government have asked that schools support local authorities in promoting the use of face coverings when travelling to and from school or college and help them to resolve any issues of non-compliance where appropriate.

Should school intervention not resolve the issue, the Council will issue one warning to the family and inform the school of the action taken. If a student continues to travel without a face covering after this warning, the Council will consider withdrawing transport for the student all together.

The relevant guidance can be found at this link. [Transport to school and other places of education: 2020 to 2021 academic year - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-2020-to-2021-academic-year)

Please inform Supported Transport

A reminder to please inform the Supported Transport Service if a student who travel by taxi or minibus is sent home during the day. This will prevent unnecessary waiting time for the vehicle and/or other passengers at the end of the school day.

Please also ensure Supported Transport are informed when the student will be returning to school, there have been some instances of a parent incorrectly sending a student into school because the school transport has unknowingly arrived to collect the student when in fact they should be isolating.

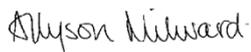
Contact details:

- Mainstream Transport: Mainstream.SchoolTransport@Oxfordshire.gov.uk or 01865 323500
- Special Needs Transport: EE-SpecialEducationalNeedsITU@Oxfordshire.gov.uk or 01865 323795

A letter will be sent to all parents/carers of pupils traveling on these services early in the new term to make the updated rules clear. Letters will be differentiated by sector and will address requirements for pupils with special education needs or disabilities specifically and take into account feedback received from previous communications around the use of face coverings and safety of all passengers.

Wishing you a peaceful and relaxing festive break.

Yours faithfully



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