



Vale of Glamorgan Council Contracted Home to School Transport (2020-21) Covid-19 Safety Requirements for Parents, Carers and Learners

In addition to the Council's 'Policy for the Provision of Home to School/College Transport' the following guidance/requirements are being applied during the current Covid19 pandemic for the safety of all concerned.

It should be noted that by using school transport, Parents/Carers and Learners agree to the guidance and protocols and that failure to comply with them may result in the immediate withdrawal of transport. Contractors have been instructed to report behavioural problems and breaches of the guidance or protocols to the Council's Passenger Transport team promptly. Immediate bans may be given if pupils do not adhere to what is expected of them.

All Learners, Drivers and Passenger Assistants using the school transport vehicles are authorised travellers with recorded contact details to enable 'Track, Trace and Protect' in the unfortunate event of a COVID19 infection.

Learners or their Parents/Carers (where applicable) must comply with the following requirements and protocols:

- Learners must not use school transport or public transport if Covid19 symptomatic (i.e. high temperature, continuous cough or loss of smell and taste) or suffering from any other seasonal illness.
(NB. Learners displaying symptoms of COVID19 will not be permitted to travel on the school transport). At a learner's home address, the Driver and/or Passenger Assistant are empowered to refuse travel to the Learner and will report any instances of refused travel due to COVID19 symptoms immediately to School Staff and the Passenger Transport Team.)
- Parents/Carers must inform both the school and the Passenger Transport Team promptly if the Learner or anyone within the Learner's household develops Covid19 symptoms after using school transport, as follows:
 - Mainstream school transport:
E-mail schooltransport@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Tel: 02920 673134
 - Additional Learning Needs school transport:
E-mail SchoolTransportSEN@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Tel: 029 20 673147/148
- In such circumstances, a Covid19 test should be immediately sought for the Learner concerned, who will be advised to self-isolate until the test result is known and further guidance given (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>). In addition, please further advise both the School and Passenger Transport Team of the Covid19 test result promptly, as others that have come into contact with the symptomatic Learner may also be required to self-isolate in the meantime.
- Learners must fully comply with instructions given by Drivers and Passenger Assistants and School Staff with regard to getting on and getting off at school/college sites, as well as any seating instructions given. Learners will be encouraged to sit in year groups where practicable.
- Learners, if possible, must not use the seats directly behind the driver unless there are no other seats available.

- Learners must not close window(s)/ventilators/roof lights (where applicable) that have been opened to maintain good ventilation within the vehicle.
- Learners must not consume food or drink whilst using school transport vehicles.
- Learners must not discard or leave used personal protective equipment (PPE), tissues or general litter on the vehicle.
- Learners must remain seated once onboard the vehicle.
- Although the use of face coverings (masks) is not currently required by Welsh Government for any Learners being transported between home and school on dedicated school transport it does recommend the use of three-layered face coverings for all passengers (aged 11+) on public transport.
- **The Council, however, is making it mandatory (i.e. a requirement) for Learners of secondary school age (aged 11 +) and Drivers and Passenger Assistants to wear face masks while travelling on its contracted 'home to school' transport services. Parents/carers will be responsible for providing pupils with face masks).**
- If there are any appropriate health reasons that make it not possible for the learner/driver/passenger assistant to wear a face mask this needs to be declared to the Passenger Transport team in advance of travel. Any Secondary School Learner (aged 11 +) who attempts to get into a contracted school transport vehicle without a face covering (mask) will be refused travel. **
- The Council recommends the use of face coverings for primary school Learners and Learners with additional learning needs who cannot social distance (2m). There may be circumstances where the additional learning needs of the child or young person would make it inappropriate to wear a face mask and in these circumstances a risk assessment should be undertaken to mitigate any additional risk.
- The efficiency of the face covering cannot be guaranteed (e.g. homemade/inappropriate coverings with less than 3 layers).
- The use of protective gloves by Learners will be at their own discretion but if used they remove and dispose of the gloves responsibly.
- Learners are encouraged to wash their hands immediately before travel and again after school before boarding their vehicle using either warm soapy water or suitable hand sanitiser.
- It is recommended that parents/carers give pupils their own hand sanitiser.

**Face masks are to be provided by parent/carer for Learners and the employer for Drivers/Passenger Assistants.

This guidance is subject to change at short notice and as such parents/carers are advised to check the Council website for updates:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/transportation/school_transport/School-Transport.aspx

14/08/2020