



# Northumberland County Council

## **STAYING SAFE - GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS USING HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

All school students will be returning to school this September. Your school will be putting their plans in place to make sure that you and your fellow students are kept as safe as possible from catching coronavirus while you are in school.

If you use home to school transport, there are also plans being put in place to make sure that you, other students and your drivers are kept as safe as possible on the way to and from school. Your parent or carer is also being sent guidance on how to keep you and other students safe while on Home to School Transport so that everyone can play their part in stopping the coronavirus from spreading to anyone else.

So, we are also asking that you and the other students who travel on home to school transport play your part in keeping yourself and others safe on school transport. You can do this by reading the guidance below very carefully and by doing your best to keep to this guidance while you are travelling to and from school.

### **1. WHAT IF I FEEL POORLY BEFORE I TRAVEL TO SCHOOL?**

- If you feel poorly when you are home before you travel to school, you must tell your parent or carer **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Your parent or carer will ask you some questions about how you feel and they will decide if you have any signs that it may be coronavirus. If they think there is a chance it may be coronavirus, your parent or carer has been given guidance which tells them that they must keep you at home and that **YOU MUST NOT** travel to school by school transport.
- If you find out that any of the other people you live with are feeling poorly, then you should also tell your parent or carer so that they can decide if it is safe for you to travel to school.
- Your parent or carer will need to let your school and the Home to School Transport Team know if you or someone you live with has signs they may be poorly with Coronavirus.
- After you or someone you live with feels poorly and then has a test for Coronavirus and it shows that you do have the virus, then your parent or carer will also need to inform school and the Home to School Transport team.

### **2. WHAT IF I START TO FEEL POORLY WHEN I AM IN SCHOOL?**

- If you are at school and during the day you start to feel poorly, a member of staff will check whether you have signs that you may have coronavirus.

- If your school thinks there is a chance that you may have the coronavirus, they will contact your parent or carer who will then make arrangements to have you brought home. **You will not be able to travel home on Home to School Transport.**

### 3. **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO WHEN TRAVELLING ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT?**

- You **MUST** clean your hands before you get on school transport **AND** after you get off school transport.
- You can make sure your hands are clean either by washing with soap and water just before you leave home or by using hand sanitiser before you get on the bus. Ask your parent or carer to make sure you always have a small bottle of hand sanitiser available so that you can take it to school with you.
- **Keeping your hands clean is the best way to kill coronavirus and stop it from spreading.**
- Ask your parent or carer to make sure you have **a packet of tissues with** you in case you need to sneeze when you are on the bus or taxi.
- If you do need to sneeze, make sure you **'catch it, bin it, kill it'** - sneeze into a tissue and put it in a bin as soon as possible at school if you are on your way there, or at home if you are on your way back. Either wash your hands when you can or use hand sanitiser after sneezing.
- If you are aged 11 or over, you **must** wear a face covering while on school transport. A face covering covers your nose and mouth and fits round the side of your face.
- If you are aged 11 or over, there may be reasons why you should not wear a face covering on school transport. Your parent or carer will be told where they can find out more about face coverings in their guidance.
- If you are younger than age 11, your parent or carer may decide that you are able to wear a face covering and can wear one when you are on school transport.

### 4. **ARE THERE ANY RULES ABOUT WHERE I CAN SIT ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT?**

- Yes, there will be a plan for where you can sit when you are travelling to and from school on school transport. You may also have new instructions about when you can get on and off the bus.
- Please listen carefully to the instructions given to you by your driver about where to sit for your journey to and from school and when to get on and off. These plans are being put in place to keep students and drivers safe and you can play your part by complying with these instructions.
- When you get on your school transport, you will find that some windows will be open. This is to help with the flow of air and is part of the measures to

keep safe. **PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE ANY WINDOWS ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT.**

- Your school will have a plan for getting you safely from your school transport into school. They will also have a plan for keeping you safe when queuing for transport at the end of the school day. Please make sure you comply with the instructions given to you by your teachers when arriving at school and when waiting for transport at the end of the day.
- The Council already has some general rules and guidance about the expected behaviour of students when travelling on school transport. It is important that you follow the general rules about behaviour in addition to the new advice in this guidance about staying safe from coronavirus. You can find a video on acceptable behaviour and download the general rules when travelling on school transport from:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-transport-1/Transport.aspx#home school transport>

We understand that there are a lot of new things to have to think about just travelling to and from school. If you have any worries or concerns about school transport, then make sure you talk to your parent or carer.

Thank you for helping us and your school to keep you and your friends safe when travelling to and from school on school transport.