

## School Transport Information for Parents/Carers during COVID 19

The following information for pupils travelling on school transport has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Scottish Government and risk assessments carried out by Argyll and Bute Council's Health and Safety Service and other transport operators.



### Individuals should not travel if they feel unwell

The main symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

### Good Hygiene

The most important control for preventing the spread of any infection is good hygiene:

- Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze (CATCH IT)
- Place used tissues in the nearest waste bag or bin (BIN IT)
- If you do not have a tissue use the inside elbow of your sleeve.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or other alcohol based gels/spray/wipes (KILL IT)
- Clean surfaces and contact points regularly to get rid of germs (KILL IT)
- Avoid touching your face

### BUSES/CARS/TAXIS

- Follow the guidance on display at main bus stops.
- Drivers, pupil escorts and all passengers, including school pupils, **are required to wear suitable face coverings**. Exemptions include children under five years of age and people who have a health condition or disability. Individual discretion should be applied in considering the use of face coverings for children with breathing difficulties and disabled children who would struggle to wear a face covering. A small number of disposable masks will be available on vehicles for pupils who have forgotten to bring their own.
- Mounted hand sanitisers will be provided and should be applied by all staff and pupils when entering the vehicle.
- Vehicles should be kept well ventilated.
- An enhanced cleaning schedule will be put in place to ensure that frequent contact points, eg door handles, are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each journey.
- If someone displays the symptoms of Covid-19, lives with someone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or is a confirmed case, the affected transport will be subject to an enhanced clean.
- The Scottish Government has advised that dedicated school transport services should be regarded as an extension of the school estate. This means physical distancing between pupils is not necessary as long as infection rates remain low in Scotland. Due to the confined space within school transport vehicles, drivers and pupil escorts will be required to wear

face masks and shields they have provided with. **All children and young people will be responsible for providing their own face coverings.**

- All pupils should maintain a one metre social distance from all fare paying passengers on public bus services
- School pupils will be discouraged from singing and shouting whilst on board vehicles to reduce the possible spread of virus transmission.
- Appropriate signage will be on display in each vehicle.
- Wipes and disposable face masks will should be placed in bins or waste bags as soon as possible after use.

### **RAIL SERVICES**

- All passengers, including school pupils, have to wear face coverings unless they are exempt.
- ScotRail will not be providing hand sanitiser, so pupils should to bring their own sanitiser with them and clean their hands before entering the carriage.
- Pupils should maintain a one metre social distance from other passengers where possible.
- Be patient – most seats need to be empty

### **FERRIES**

- Pupils must wear a face covering when travelling with Cal Mac and when using their port offices - unless they are exempt from wearing one.
- Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and water before boarding, and hand sanitiser should be used during and after every journey.
- Pupils must comply with any signage or instructions on public transport, or from transport staff, as the safety measures in place are for everyone's benefit
- Whenever possible, keep yourself and others safe by maintaining the latest physical distance guidelines at the port and on the ferry
- Where it is impossible to maintain physical distancing, avoid physical contact and face away from others, and keep the time you spend within two metres of others as short as possible
- If you are travelling in a car, some journeys will require you to remain inside the car during the crossing
- Be considerate of the impact of restrictions on the needs of fellow passengers who may have impairments, disabilities or mobility issues

- If any problems arise, or you feel ill during your journey, speak to a member of staff. In the case of an emergency, contact a member of the staff. Maintain physical distancing from staff where possible.

## **PLANES**

- *Entry to terminal*  
Sanitise hands at entry point and prepare for a forehead temperature check  
Ensure face coverings are worn and gloves if possible (disposable ones are available)  
Report to reception to book in and follow further instructions
- *Waiting for flight*  
Position your bags on the scale for a weight check and declaration displayed, or briefed by reception  
Take a seat providing as much distance between you and other passengers as possible.  
The purchase of snacks and use of toilet facilities will be limited to one at a time
- *Boarding the flight*  
Listen to the brief given by the pilot and, when authorised, leave the terminal building towards the aircraft  
Deposit luggage as directed and take the allocated seat whilst keeping on your face covering.  
Continue to wear protective items throughout the flight
- *Disembarkation*  
Follow instructions from the pilot and collect luggage one at a time  
Put used face coverings/gloves in a clinical waste bag  
The pilot/operator will clean and disinfect the aircraft ready for the next flight.

**For any further enquiries relating to school transport please telephone the School Transport Office on 01369 708662 or 01546 604601, or by email [schooltransport@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@argyll-bute.gov.uk).**

**The information contained within this document can also be found on Argyll and Bute Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).**