

## Face Coverings on School Transport

The government has announced that all passengers on public transport are required to wear a face covering from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. A face covering is anything which covers the mouth and nose and does not have to be a face mask of a medical variety.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June the Department for Transport clarified to the Confederation for Passenger Transport that this did not apply to school transport or privately arranged transport but only for transport services that were open to the general public.

Despite this clarification, each school will be putting into place their own social distancing plan for a return to school by students and we therefore request that all schools provide instruction to Transport2 to cover the following:

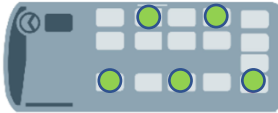
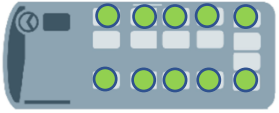
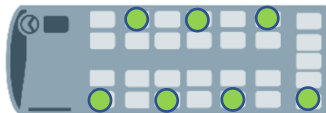
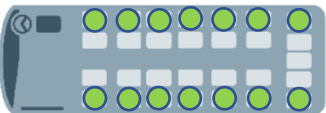
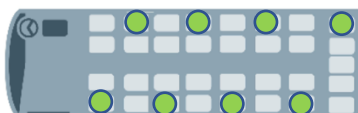
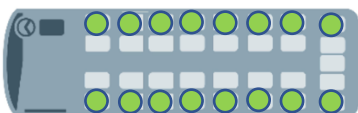


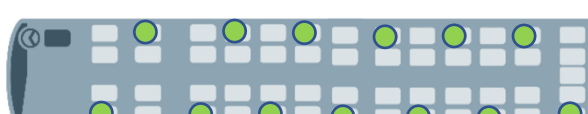
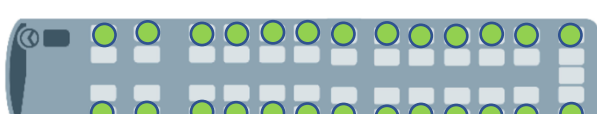
- what level of social distancing will you require on school transport ?
- will you have any requirement for students to wear face coverings on school transport ?
- if so, what action will you want Kura to take if a driver reports a student has arrived to take transport but does not have a face covering ?

Ultimately the decision as to the social distancing and protection measures for your students will be made by the school, but we have a responsibility to our drivers and so will require a 2m social distancing exists for them.

Undoubtedly you will be sending out information to students and parents prior to their return to school and we would ask that the following be included for those students taking school transport:

- stand back from the vehicle door so that the driver can exit the vehicle if required,
- always fill the vehicle from the rear so that students don't have to walk past already seated students,
- only sit in seats where the seat belt is unfastened.

## Social Distancing Provisions for School Coach Travel

		Possible Seating Options		
		Full distancing	Semi distancing	
16 Seat Vehicle		5		10
29 Seat Vehicle		7		14
33 Seat Vehicle		8		16
49 Seat Vehicle		12		24
53 Seat Vehicle		13		26

Note that the level of social distancing on the vehicle is at the discretion of the contracting body but a 2m isolating zone must be maintained around the driver<sup>i</sup>

# TRANSPORT<sup>2</sup>

These guidelines are created in accordance with government advice and will be updated as that advice changes (see endnotes for references)

- First passengers to board, sit at the rear of the vehicle<sup>ii</sup>
- Seats with seatbelts fastened are not to be used<sup>iii</sup>
- Drivers to exit the vehicle<sup>iv</sup> and stand apart from the door while passengers board and disembark
- Vehicle touch points to be sanitized before and after each trip<sup>v</sup>
- Face masks or hand sanitiser to be supplied by school if required<sup>vi</sup>

## Considerations for Schools

Social Distancing does not allow for the same passenger capacity for vehicles. School options include:

- Normal passenger capacities - this would require PPE for passengers which would be provided by the schools and would not meet social distancing requirements.
- Reduced passenger capacities - this would progressively meet social distancing requirements - see diagrams above. Other pupils would have to make other arrangements to get to school, ie parents.
- Increase in vehicle size - this would allow for greater social distancing between passengers<sup>vii</sup>
- Consecutive routes<sup>viii</sup> - the school transport could operate a route in two parts collecting the passengers from the stops further away from the school at the regular time and delivering them to school before returning to the closer stops and collecting the remaining passengers.
- Concurrent routes - each route could be serviced by 2 or more vehicles. This could be problematic depending on the availability of school-approved drivers. The possibility exists of two or more vehicles driving in convoy with one driver fully cleared by the school supervising the other driver(s).

Social distancing measures must also be considered by schools for their pupils waiting at bus stops and clear communication provided on the behaviours that are required for taking school transport.

## Swiping On or Off the Vehicle

Schools may prefer to not have their passengers touch in and off the vehicle using their card or fob.

Options include:

- Continue having passengers board and disembark themselves in the normal manner.
- Have the driver manually board and disembark the passengers.
- Do not have the passengers being individually boarded or disembarked but all parents to continue to be able to see the vehicle location through the parent app. Did Not Board notifications to parents could be disabled for this period of time.

## References

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers Published 12 May 2020, Last updated 28 May 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer transport guidance for operators Published 12 May 2020, Last updated 28 May 2020

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- <sup>i</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer transport guidance for operators - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘Blocking off seats that are in close proximity to a driver’
- <sup>ii</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer transport guidance for operators - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘Creating and agreeing a single, clear approach to social distancing for all workers and passengers’
- <sup>iii</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘cordonning off seats and eliminating face-to-face seating, where vehicle capacity allows, to help passengers spread out’
- <sup>iv</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘making sure transport providers, as far as possible, follow hygiene rules and try to keep distance from their passengers’
- <sup>v</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer transport guidance for operators - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘Touch points (for example buttons to open doors, handrails) across the transport network should be particular areas of focus for increased cleaning’
- <sup>vi</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer transport guidance for operators - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘Wearing a face covering is optional and is not required by the law’
- <sup>vii</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘substituting smaller vehicles with larger ones’
- <sup>viii</sup> *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers - Department for Transport 12 May 2020:*  
‘transport providers could consider the following...substituting smaller vehicles with larger ones, or running 2 vehicles rather than one, where possible, to reduce the number of passengers per vehicle and increase the amount of space between passengers’