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| **Important message to parents/carers in relation to journeys to and from school during any phased return to school**  **From Sam Tomkins – Inclusion & Access Manager**  **Action Required** |

It is only a small proportion of children and young people across the East Riding who rely on Home to School and College Transport provided by the Council to get to school or college.

Our schools are working very hard to ensure that pupils and staff will be as safe as possible once on site, so it follows that we also would want pupils to be as safe as possible on the journey to and from school/college, this will minimise the risk of any pupil bringing the virus into a setting or transmitting it to their own household.

It has been acknowledged by the Government that it may not always be possible to adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rule on transport. East Riding of Yorkshire Council staff have been analysing the impact of risk on transport and a decision has been taken that during any phased return to education, where possible, there will be no more than a 50 per cent occupancy on transport provided by the Council for our eligible children and young people. Vehicles will also be cleaned between journeys.

Where parents feel that for whatever reason the transport provided by the Council is not suitable for their child or young person the Council appreciates that parents have the choice to fulfil this duty themselves. Unfortunately the Council are not in a position to consider or offer alternatives.

The Governments latest guidance *‘Coronovirus (COVID 19): safer travel guidance for passengers’* can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Whilst this guidance is not specific to children and young people, the principles are useful:

* Pupils should not travel if the pupil or any member of their family are presenting with symptoms, they must isolate for 14 days
* Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not be attending school and therefore should not be travelling
* Parents should be encouraged **where possible** to bring their children to school themselves, they could consider walking, cycling (where safe to do so) or driving
* Parents should talk to their children about personal space and try to ensure their child understands there should be no physical contact with others in the transport
* Parents may (for pupils over 2 years old only) wish to provide face coverings for their children to wear whilst on transport – this is purely a personal preference and parents must be confident that their child can use this safely. Council staff and drivers on transport and school staff will not be responsible for the safe use of face coverings. You may find the link below useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

* Parents should ensure their children know to listen to the driver and any passenger assistants in relation to boarding, seating and alighting vehicles
* Children should not eat or drink on transport, this is particularly important at this time (to reduce hand to face contact)
* Parents should talk to their children about safe queuing at bus stops etc. (where this is applicable)

Additional advice and guidance from the Council:

* Parents should ensure children wash their hands and face before leaving the house to use the transport
* Parents are advised that contractors who provide transport will be using smiley faces and crosses on their vehicles to illustrate where children and young people should and should not sit (this is to ensure risks are minimised whilst on transport)
* Schools will ensure that on receiving children and young people from transport that each child washes their hands and face before starting the school day (for children who arrive wearing a face covering, schools will encourage children and young people to remove and place in bag then wash)
* Parents should be asked to ensure their children are adequately dressed for the journey as vehicles may be more ventilated than usual (windows open to ensure air circulation)
* Parents and children are encouraged to use the buswise system to report any issues on transport:

(<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/learning/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-transport/buswise/>)

* Schools will be understanding if pupils arrive late to school due to you bringing them to school. This could be due to you dropping other children at other educational establishments. Where this is the case the pupil will be marked as ‘late’ in the attendance register and not ‘late after the register has closed. This **will not** prejudice the pupil or school in relation to attendance recording

If you have any questions as a school in relation to Home to School Transport you should contact Transportation Services:

[Transport.requests@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:Transport.requests@eastriding.gov.uk) - 01482 395444