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| **Protocol for Primary and Secondary School home-to-school transport** |

Review date – December 2021

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| Current government guidance for home to school transport (updated Aug 17th 2021) can be found here: [Transport to schools and colleges during the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=8dc32f76-9d22-4866-b590-ae5dad01856c&utm_content=immediately) On the return to school in September 2021, schools and colleges are no longer required to   * keep children and young people in consistent groups or ‘bubbles’ * trace close contacts of those children and young people who test positive for Covid-19.   **🗹 Ensure Face Coverings are worn where recommended**  Wearing face coverings is no longer a legal requirement but government guidance is that children and young people over the age of 11 should wear a face covering when in enclosed spaces, such as public transport vehicles, including taxis, travelling to and from schools and colleges.  **🗹 Maintain distance in vehicles**  Maximised distancing is no longer required but it is still advised where possible. For instance, children can now travel in the front seat of a taxi but this should be avoided if space in the vehicle allows for an alternative.  **🗹 Ensure good hygiene and maintain cleaning regimes using standard products such as detergents**  Frequent and thorough hand cleansing, including using hand sanitisers, continues to be recommended, as is the maintaining of appropriate cleaning regimes in vehicles, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.  The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important.  **🗹 Ensure good ventilation**  Good ventilation of vehicles when occupied is recommended, particularly by opening windows and ceiling vents. Drivers should balance the need for maintaining a comfortable temperature with the proven benefits of fresh air in enclosed spaces.  **PPE and what is expected where children and young people develop symptoms**  The use of PPE beyond what is necessary in the particular circumstances of your work is no longer required. However, the  [guidance on the use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe) provides more information on organising transport for children who develop symptoms of Covid-19 while at school or college.  In brief:   * Children, young people and adults should *not* board dedicated transport or public transport if they have symptoms or there are other reasons (eg: quarantine) that require them to stay at home. * If a child or young person develops Covid-19 symptoms, however mild, while at school, they will be sent home. The expectation is that they will be collected by a member of their family, and public transport or dedicated transport will not be used. If collection by a member of the family is not possible, alternative arrangements need to be organised by the school. * If a symptomatic child or young person needs to be transported, one of the following should be applied: * use a vehicle with a bulkhead or partition that separates the driver and passenger. * the driver and passenger should maintain a distance of 2 metres from each other. * the driver should use PPE, and the passenger should wear a face covering if they are old enough and able to do so.   **What if positive cases increase substantially?**  Please be aware: schools and colleges are expected to have contingency plans in operation in case the number of positive cases in their area substantially increases. This may affect home-to-school transport – for instance, a school may decide to reintroduce bubbles and reduce mixing, which may extend to mixing on transport.  Those providing transport must continue regularly to review and update their risk assessments as circumstances and public health advice change. |