

**Hampshire County Council Home to School Transport -
guidance from September 2021 (last updated 02 August 2021)**

The Department for Education have updated the guidance for the delivery of Home to School Transport from September 2021. The DfE's guidance can be viewed by clicking here: [Dedicated transport to schools and colleges COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/dedicated-transport-to-schools-and-colleges-covid-19-operational-guidance)

The information below details our expectations of children, families, operators, School Escorts and schools who deliver or use the service.

1. Transport arrangements will not support bubbling, separate destinations (either separate schools or separate sites for an individual school), or phased starts. Pupils will be able to sit anywhere on larger vehicles (there is no expectation that pupils will sit in year groups).
2. Children and young people aged 11 and over, School Escorts and drivers should wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college unless medically exempt.
3. Good hygiene practices should continue to be followed. Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice with soap and water or hand sanitiser. For respiratory hygiene, the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach continues to be very important.
4. Transport operators should maintain appropriate cleaning regimes using standard products such as detergents. An appropriate cleaning schedule should be in place with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
5. Vehicles should be well ventilated when occupied, particularly by opening windows and ceiling vents. The need for increased ventilation should be balanced while maintaining a comfortable temperature.
6. When a pupil, driver or School Escort develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test Public Health advice should be followed on when to self-isolate and what to do.
7. Drivers and School Escorts must follow national track and trace advice and inform Home to School Transport immediately if they are contacted.
8. If a pupil, driver or School Escort has symptoms of COVID-19 they should not board dedicated transport or public transport. This includes other reasons requiring them to stay at home such as a requirement to quarantine. Parents should ensure their child does not seek to attend school when they have symptoms.
9. If a pupil develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, while at school or college, they will be sent home. A member of their family or household should collect them where possible. In exceptional circumstances, if parents or carers cannot arrange collection of the pupil, and it is age appropriate and safe to do so the child should walk, cycle or scoot home. If this is not possible then alternative arrangements may need to be organised by the school.

10. Schools (where there is a transport impact), drivers and School Escorts should continue to report positive cases to the Home to School Transport team.
11. Asymptomatic testing remains important. All secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. They should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. **Transport will not be provided for any additional trips necessary for return to school testing.** Drivers and School Escorts are encouraged to test regularly and kits can be collected from a local pharmacy or ordered online.
12. Anyone with a positive Lateral Flow test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#). They will also need to get [a free PCR test](#) to check if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the individual need no longer self-isolate, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.