



Transport Co-ordination Service  
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9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**IMPORTANT: COVID 19 measures on school transport – face coverings must now be worn by all students as a condition of travel**

Devon County Council are working cooperatively with schools and transport operators to ensure that children have as safe a journey as possible to and from school. It has become apparent that, although we asked previously for face coverings to be worn on school transport, some children have not been adhering to this guidance.

The government, as part of their measures to combat COVID 19, have made the wearing of face coverings mandatory on public transport. Devon County Council have been in discussion with the Department for Education and it has been decided that face coverings for students over the age of 11 must be worn at all times on contract school transport vehicles.

Those travelling on SEN transport will not be included in this new policy, as the majority of children fall into the category of being excluded from wearing face coverings. We do however, encourage those passengers with SEN who can wear a face covering, to do so.

Although face coverings should be worn now, **from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November this will become a condition of travel unless your child is exempt from wearing one.** For more details of those who are exempt please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering then please contact your school office. All secondary schools and colleges are being issued with DCC exemption cards which they will give to students upon parental request. A failure to produce this exemption card when boarding without a face covering could result in a warning and ultimately a refusal to accept your child onto the vehicle. If your child attends a SEN school they will not require an exemption card.

[www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)

Text 80011 (start your message with the word Devon)

General Data Protection Regulations Notice: <http://devon.cc/tcsprivacy>

Devon County Council has adopted a “two strikes” policy in terms of the wearing of a face covering. Should your child be discovered not wearing a face covering by the school or transport operator, and there is no record of them being exempt from using one, then after the second incident they will be refused travel for a period of time.

I shall be grateful if you will impress upon your child the importance of wearing face coverings for their own safety as well as other students, and that they should be worn **at all times on school transport to and from school**.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Jones', is positioned above the printed name.

Damien Jones  
Head of the Transport Co-ordination Service