

Message sent on behalf of Phil Taylor, Transport Services Manager

Dear Headteacher

You will already be aware that the Combined Authority provides dedicated school bus services where there are no suitable public transport alternatives for children. Many of these services are co-funded by the local council. In line with Government guidance, these services operate without social distancing.

Although not mandatory on dedicated school bus services, it is our joint policy that all children over the age of 11 should wear a face covering when using these services. This is one of the steps we have taken to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 spreading as a result of children travelling in close proximity to each other.

As I am sure you will understand, and as is set out in Government guidance, it is not possible for drivers to enforce this requirement. Their main duty is to drive the bus and it would be unrealistic for them to be able to ensure that children kept their face coverings on throughout the journey. Drivers are also instructed that safeguarding protocols take precedence and that children should not be refused entry on to the bus even if they are not wearing a face covering.

We would welcome your help in maximising awareness among students and parents of the need for children to wear face coverings on buses to and from school. It would be helpful if you could share the following with students and parents through newsletters, homework apps, text messages and other channels:

*It is more important than ever that we all do what we can to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Huge efforts have gone in to making school as safe as possible and we need students to play their part as they travel to and from school by wearing a face-covering whether they are on a regular service or a dedicated school bus and avoid congregating in large groups at bus stops. Information on school travel, and the rules on face-coverings, can be found at [www.wymetro.com/schools](http://www.wymetro.com/schools).*

If you or a colleague wish to contact us in connection with this, please reply to this email or contact one of the following:

Bradford schools – Debra Bagley (0113) 251 7427  
Calderdale schools – Matthew Jordan (0113) 348 1523  
Kirklees and Wakefield schools – Chris Davis (0113) 251 7293  
Leeds schools -Steve Wainwright (0113) 251 7290

Please use these contacts to advise of any changes to arrangements in the event of COVID outbreaks / cases at your school

Please note that the above contact numbers are for the school's use only. Parents with queries should be asked to telephone the Education Transport contact centre on (0113) 3481122 or email [EducationCustomerServices@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:EducationCustomerServices@westyorks-ca.gov.uk) .

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

Regards,

Steve

**Steve Wainwright | Education Transport Manager  
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Partnership (the LEP)**

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