

Guidance for operators of Solihull SEND school transport contracts



Broadly, you must follow the Gov.UK [Coronavirus \(Covid-19\): safer transport guidance for operators.](#)

SEND transport contracts carry the same group of children on a regular basis. This limits the contact between children and families and therefore Solihull Council is following the Gov.UK guidance - [Transport to school and other places of education: 2020-2021 academic year.](#)

The following points must be observed to prevent and minimise the spread of virus:

- Drivers and guides must not work if they, or a member of their household, has symptoms of coronavirus Covid-19. If they develop symptoms whilst at work they must go home and get a test. Report positive test to their manager immediately. Managers must contact the school and transport team.
- Increase the air flow in the vehicle, where possible, by keeping windows partially open.
- Drivers and guides must wear a face covering on school transport journeys. It is important that face coverings are used safely to prevent inadvertent spread of Covid-19 and an [infographic](#) and [video](#) explains this.
- Drivers and guides should use hand sanitiser at intervals throughout the journey, and always after close or direct contact with a child or their belongings.
- Drivers and guides are strongly advised to take an asymptomatic (lateral flow test) every 3-5 days. Go to the Solihull website and book a test: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/covidtesting>
- Carry hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) and the guide should help everyone to sanitise their hands as they get on the vehicle.
- Ensure everyone sits as far apart as the vehicle allows, preferably facing forwards.
- Discourage shouting and singing in the vehicle.
- Ensure regular cleaning of your vehicle. Frequently touched surfaces on the vehicles must be cleaned before each journey and enhanced cleaning should take place at the end of each day
- If a vehicle has been used by someone who later displays symptoms of Covid-19 or a confirmed case, then the vehicle must be either decontaminated thoroughly or parked up and not used for a minimum of 72 hours.

Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operator>