



Face coverings on school buses

Wearing a face covering on school buses will become a condition of travel from Monday 21 September 2020.

When schools returned earlier this month, face coverings were strongly recommended for all students from the age of 11 (unless they are medically exempt). However, due to many buses now running at full capacity, including standing passengers, and many students not following this recommendation it has now become necessary to make it a condition of travel.

This change brings school buses in line with the main network buses where face coverings are already a condition of travel.

From Monday 21 September, any student boarding a school bus will be asked to wear a face covering. Those that do not have one can purchase a disposable mask from the driver for 60p.

Any student who is medically exempt from wearing a face covering can apply for an exemption card by contacting their school or the customer service desk at Liberation Station.

Face coverings for students under the age of 11 remains optional.

Kevin Hart, Director for LibertyBus has said:

“We’ve monitored bus capacities over the first few weeks of term and have found that many are now running at full capacity. We had hoped that by strongly recommending face coverings on school buses the majority of students would comply, but unfortunately this has not been the case and its become necessary to enforce this more strongly.”

“For the first few weeks of the new regulations we will be helping to ensure every student has a face covering and masks will be given for free to anyone who does not have the funds to pay for one. We will also be monitoring those who consistently refuse to comply with the rules and will be working closely with schools to address any issues and ensure no students are refused travel for not wearing a mask.”

Face coverings for drivers will continue to be at their choice as its imperative that they are comfortable and have nothing impairing their vision when driving. They also have their window open at all time to aid ventilation and have very limited contact time with other people on board.

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About CT Plus Jersey and LibertyBus

LibertyBus is operated by CT Plus Jersey which is part of HCT Group, one of the UK's most successful social enterprises. The LibertyBus website can be found at www.libertybus.je.

About HCT Group

HCT Group is an established bus operator and one of the UK's most successful social enterprises. It runs an extensive portfolio of commercial contracts including ten red London bus routes, Park and Ride services, and NHS staff transport. It also has particular expertise in school transport, It has been delivering school bus services in Leeds and Wakefield since 2005 for West Yorkshire Metro. It has also been providing transport for young people with special educational needs in various London Boroughs since 2004. It has been operating the bus service on the Island of Guernsey since April 2012 and LibertyBus, Jersey's new bus service since the beginning of January 2013.

HCT Group has been supporting people who want to work in the bus industry for five years. It has two Learning Centres that are located in Leeds and in Hackney, East London.

More information about HCT Group and a downloadable version of its latest social impact report can be found at www.hctgroup.org.