

# Stay Safe Hertfordshire

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Your journey to school**

Our Highways and Environment colleagues at Hertfordshire County Council are working with local bus, train and private operators to help children and young people to get to and from school safely when they return this September.

## **Walk or cycle if you can**

Walking or cycling to school allows greater opportunities for social distancing, it's also great for our environment. We maintain hundreds of pathways and cycle lanes across #Hertfordshire so you and your family can switch the car or bus for a healthier, greener option when you return to school this September.

You can plan your walking or cycling route using the following:

- [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-access/rights-of-way/current-rights-of-way/the-definitive-map.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-access/rights-of-way/current-rights-of-way/the-definitive-map.aspx)
- [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/health-in-herts/keep-active/hertfordshire-cycling.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/health-in-herts/keep-active/hertfordshire-cycling.aspx)

## **Getting to and from school by car**

Whilst we would encourage you not to drive to school to ease peak time traffic and congestion around our schools, we understand many people need to complete their school journey by car. We'd urge those driving to plan ahead, allow extra time and check <http://one.network/> for live traffic updates and changes to road layouts.

You will not be allowed to wait at the school entrance to drop off and collect your child(ren) to allow for social distancing safety measures.

**Please think health at the school gate – engines off while you wait.**

## **Using public transport**

If your child(ren) uses public transport to travel to school, things will be different when they return. Young people, aged 11 and over, will be required to wear a face covering (unless exempt), social distancing measures will be in place on some services and you might want to provide them with a contactless payment method.

With the need for social distancing on public buses, both the council and commercial operators will be running duplicate services on busy school routes. These routes will be closed routes **for students only**. Where a school duplicate bus service is provided, it may be operated by a different company and may run up to five minutes earlier than the scheduled service; it will be clearly marked as a duplicate service.

Whilst social distancing is required when travelling on public local bus services for the general public and students, **it is not required** on a duplicate service exclusively

for students. It will however be mandatory for young people to wear a face covering (unless exempt) on the duplicate buses as well as general public bus services.

You can plan your journey and find latest timetables at:

[www.intalink.org.uk/plan-your-journey](http://www.intalink.org.uk/plan-your-journey)

To find out which services will be running a duplicate bus service visit:

[www.intalink.org.uk/duplicateschoolservices](http://www.intalink.org.uk/duplicateschoolservices)

### **Home to school transport services**

If your child normally travels using transport provided by the county council (small vehicles and e-routes), operators will be following the latest guidance and advice to ensure these journeys are safe.

Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) have helped us to prepare some FAQs for families of children and young people with special education needs or disability (SEND):

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDtransportFAQ](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDtransportFAQ)

### **Social distancing measures near Schools in town centres**

As part of our work to support Government and Public Health guidance, we deployed social distancing safety measures in some of our town centres across Hertfordshire to support residents, businesses and families to remain safe as Government allowed high streets to reopen.

In order to reduce the spread of coronavirus, footpath widths in pedestrianised areas were increased, where practical, to allow space for users to maintain a social distance. This means that some traffic lanes have been closed, one-way systems may have been implemented in some areas, some cycle lanes have been changed and bus stops may have been moved.

If your child goes to school or college in a town centre, these temporary changes to the network could impact their journey to school, please check for more information and use the interactive map at:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirustownchanges](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirustownchanges)

We need you to keep playing your part to keep your school open and your children safe.



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