



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Our ref: SF/HB*

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Dear Headteacher

We wanted to get in touch and make sure you have access to the right information on public transport to support staff, parents and pupils.

I appreciate that there is still uncertainty around the full re-opening of schools but I hope this information is relevant and helpful to you and your school community. Please do keep an eye on the Merseytravel website in the coming weeks and months for further information.

As more people start to travel, the ongoing requirement for social distancing means that space on public transport is greatly reduced.

To help people travel safely and to take pressure of the public transport system, Merseytravel has launched a public information campaign - *ReThink Travel* - that asks people to think carefully about whether they need to travel and, if so, when they travel and by what means.

We are asking everyone to walk and cycle as much as possible and to continue to work from home if they can.

However, we appreciate that some people including staff and pupils, will need to use public transport. We also appreciate that the local circumstances for each individual school will be different.

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The *ReThink Travel* campaign provides important information about public transport services and some key advice about how to plan journeys, taking into account journey times and social distancing to help keep everyone safe.

Social distancing on buses, trains and ferries means there is less space. As a result, anyone using the service might not make the one they had planned to get and may need to wait for the next one so it's a good idea to leave more time for journeys. It's also a good idea to have the correct money for tickets as change won't be given or to consider buying pre-paid tickets.

Currently, we are advising everyone who uses public transport to wear a face covering if they can. This will become mandatory from 15 June following the Government announcement on 4 June. There will be exceptions including young children and those with disabilities and we are waiting for further clarification on this. Any additional information will be posted on our website.

There is information about public transport services and the ReThink Travel campaign on the Merseytravel website - www.merseytravel.gov.uk/Coronavirus and on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/Merseytravel>

It's also a good idea to check direct with bus/rail operators for details about services.

Please do advise everyone to keep checking these sites for the most up to date information.

I have also included some specific details below.

I hope you find this information useful in your communications with parents and students. Please use it as you feel appropriate for example on your websites, direct communications to parents and via social media.

Current Key Advice

Plan ahead - social distancing means that bus, rail and ferry services have limited space

Face coverings - If you need to use public transport, please wear a face covering, if you can*

Leave plenty of time – you might not make the service you planned to get and may need to wait for the next one

Check timetables - online before and on your day of travel and be prepared for changes

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Keep cycling and walking if you can – ease the pressure on transport, stay fit and healthy and help keep our air clean

If you must travel, arrive early at the station, stop, or terminal in good time – this is to avoid disappointment as there may be queues

Avoid the peak - speak to your employer about home working, staggering shifts and flexible working patterns

Buy your tickets in advance - to avoid queues on the day

Consider multi modal ticket - such as Saveaways as these will give you more options

Please pay by contactless - if you can't then have the right money ready as services can't provide change

Please maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible with respect and patience - to keep yourself and others safe

Practice good hygiene – avoid touching surfaces, your face, and wash your hands properly both before and after your journey

Please be kind and respectful to transport staff – they are working really hard to get you to where you need to be

Be patient - as there will be social distancing measures in place both on services and in waiting areas such as bus stops, stations and ferry terminals

*Face coverings are mandatory from 15 June

Cycling and Walking

Guidance on safe cycling and walking can be found via national websites such as [Bikeability](#) and Living Streets, which have produced a dedicated walk to school toolkit, [available here](#).

Best wishes and stay safe

Yours faithfully



Shane Fitzpatrick
**Interim Director of Integrated Transport
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority**