

Dear Parent / Carer

Covid 19 Testing

In the coming days and weeks, Lancashire County Council's Integrated Transport Service will be introducing Mass Testing for Covid 19 for all its frontline employees.

Why is this message important to Parents and Carers?

If your child travels to and from school on a transport service provided by the council, a Covid positive test for the Passenger Assistant is likely to mean that your child will be classed as a close contact of the person testing positive. In this situation your child will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the day they were last in contact with the positive case.

Additionally, depending on the time the positive result is reported, you may be required to collect your child from school. This is because the run will have to immediately close down for the duration of isolation period. Your school will contact you should this be necessary.

Which Council Employees are included?

All Passenger Assistants regardless of whether they are on taxis or minibuses will be in the testing programme, but not Teaching Assistants or Health Care Professionals / Assistants employed by contractors (these people will have their own testing arrangements and rules). Drivers of the councils own "Travelcare" minibuses are also included, but not Taxi / Private Hire drivers as they are not yet subject to mass testing.

What is the Transport Service doing to reduce the risk of Covid Transmission?

From March last year, all our frontline transport staff have been issued with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) relevant to the level of support they provide on the journey and have been fully trained in its use. Now, in addition to PPE and mass testing, almost every Passenger Assistant and Travelcare Driver Attendant has had their first vaccination against Covid 19. The vaccine is being reported as helping reduce the spread of infection as well as reducing the risk of serious illness.

LCC Travelcare buses have been fitted with High Efficiency Particle filters, similar to those fitted on aircraft, which purify all the air in the vehicle several times per hour. Enhanced cleaning routines have also been put in place including a disinfectant wipe down after every journey.

Taxi operators and other external suppliers have been issued with clear guidance on expected infection control procedures and hygiene in respect of the contracts they operate for the council. Passenger Assistants are also issued with disinfectant wipes to clean door handles and other high touch surfaces.

With all these arrangements in place, it is hoped that the risk of positive tests, subsequent self-isolation and disruption to Home to School Transport will be minimised.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Ian Wilkin
Integrated Transport Services Manager
Lancashire County Council

March 2021