**Coronavirus (COVID-19):**

**Safer Travel Guidance For Passengers Published 20/05/20**

You should **avoid** using public transport where possible.

**If your journey is necessary? To help keep yourself and your fellow passengers safe.**

**You should NOT travel if you:**

* Are experiencing any [coronavirus symptoms](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/)
* Are [self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms or sharing a household with somebody with symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)
* Are [clinically extremely vulnerable](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)

## **When using public transport**

## Plan your journey

* Consider all other forms of transport before using public transport.
* Travel may take longer than normal on some routes due to reduced capacity and social distancing measures.
* Allow sufficient time if your journey involves changes between different forms of transport.
* Plan ahead by identifying alternative routes and options in case of unexpected disruption.

## **Face coverings**

**You should wear a face covering while travelling, as set out in this guidance.**

A face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably.

It is important to use face coverings properly and wash your hands before putting them on and after taking it off.

[How to wear and make a face covering](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering).

* Some people may not be able to wear a face covering, for example young children, people with breathing difficulties and people whose disabilities makes it difficult for them to wear a face covering.
* You should be prepared to remove your face covering if asked to do so by police officers and police staff for the purposes of identification.
* A face covering is not the same as the surgical masks or respirators used by healthcare and other workers as part of personal protective equipment (PPE). These should continue to be reserved for those who need them to protect against risks in their workplace, such as health and care workers, and those in industrial settings, like those exposed to dust hazards.

**The evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you, but it may protect others if you are infected but have not yet developed** symptoms.

### **What to take with you**

* If you can, wear a face covering if you need to use public transport.

There are some circumstances when wearing a face covering may be marginally beneficial as a precautionary measure. The evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you, but it may protect others if you are infected but have not yet developed symptoms.

Wearing a face covering is optional and is not required by the law. If you choose to wear one, it is important to [use face coverings properly](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering) and wash your hands before putting them on and after taking them off.

### **On your journey**

### Keep your distance from people outside your household. Public Health England recommends [keeping a distance of 2 metres, where possible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing). The key thing is to not be too close to other people for more than a short amount of time, as much as you can.

* when boarding or alighting, on busier services, at busier times of day you should avoid physical contact, try to face away from other people, and keep the time you spend near others as short as possible. If you can, wear a face covering on public transport.
* Be aware of the surfaces you touch. Be careful not to touch your face. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Treat transport staff with respect and follow instructions from your transport operator.

**Help keep yourself, other passengers and transport staff safe:**

* Wait for passengers to get off first before you board
* Ensure you maintain social distancing, where possible, including at busy entrances, exits, under canopies, bus stops, platforms or outside of stations
* Be prepared to queue
* Wait for the next service if you cannot safely keep your distance on board a bus
* Respect other people’s space while travelling
* Avoid consuming food and drink on public transport
* Be aware of pregnant, older and disabled people who may require a seat or extra space
* Be aware that some individuals may have hidden disabilities

### **Children on public transport**

* Social distancing applies to children as well as adults. Children should keep their distance from others who are not in their household, where possible.
* Public Health England recommends [keeping a 2 metre distance from others](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing). If this isn’t possible children should avoid physical contact, face away from others, and keep the time spent near others as short as possible.
* If you are the responsible adult or carer travelling with children, please help them follow this guidance, wear face coverings, minimise the surfaces they touch and maintain their distance from others, where possible.

(Children under 2 years old are not recommended to wear face coverings)

### **Completing your journey it is recommend that you:**

* Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise your hands as soon as possible - do the same for children within your care if they have travelled.

Further information can be found using the link below:

**https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers**