

Face Coverings on School Transport

Students of all ages are encouraged to wear a face covering on all school transport services under all alert levels. Providing face coverings is the responsibility of individuals and caregivers. Any student who is unwell should not travel on a school or public bus.

We encourage you to convey the following information on face coverings to the caregivers of your students.

Students Aged 12 and Over

Face coverings **are required** to be worn by students aged 12 and over while on school transport (both Ministry and regional council-operated services) under all alert levels.

This includes SESTA, daily, technology, direct resourced, and Māori-medium school transport services. It also includes charter buses hired by schools to transport students and staff.

Students aged 12 and over **are also required** to wear face coverings on public transport.

Please note, while the school transport drivers are not required to enforce the wearing of face coverings, they will report any non-compliance to your school's bus controller. Schools are expected to manage any non-compliance just as they currently manage behavioural issues of school transport users.

Students Under 12

Students aged under 12 **are not required** to wear face coverings on school transport.

This includes SESTA, daily, technology, direct resourced, and Māori-medium school transport services. It also includes charter buses hired by schools to transport students and staff.

However, all students are encouraged to wear face coverings on school transport.

SESTA Students

SESTA students are covered by the above face covering requirements. However, we understand that some SESTA students **will not be able to** wear a face covering.

Schools with SESTA students should note that some exemptions from face covering requirements are allowed. Information on face covering exemptions can be found on the **Unite Against COVID-19** website.

To request an exemption card, please contact the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ on **04 801 9100** or **info@dpa.org.nz**.