



Reference: FOI2919

**Request:**

Would you kindly confirm what measures the County Council and or the Education Authority are taking to prevent the transmission of COVID 19 on School buses that you are providing for the transport of pupils.

Please confirm if the Education Authority or local government is specifying a product, method of application or paying an amount for the school bus operator to disinfect the vehicle to prevent the transmission of COVID 19?

Please confirm if the Education Authority or local government is specifying a product and method of application or payment what type of disinfectant it is and how much it costs?

**Response**

The Local Authority has asked all contractors to follow government guidance issued earlier this year and updated on 5 November 2020. See link below:\n<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

In particular, the LA has asked contractors to follow guidance in Part B. This section specifically states that providers should:

\_"Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is easy to kill on surfaces. Normal cleaning products will do this - specialist cleaning products are not needed."\_

The LA is therefore following guidance and not specifying a product and method of application in relation to cleaning and we are not making a payment for this work.

The Local Authority has also reorganised Special Needs Transport routes in accordance with school bubbles and in accordance with Social Distancing. Face coverings (mask or shield) must be worn at all times, this includes during transit and whilst waiting in the school yard for school staff to collect the pupils.