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Jun 09, 2020 12:45 BST

West Midlands Railway urges passengers to be prepared as face coverings become mandatory on trains

West Midlands Railway passengers are being urged to 'travel prepared' and bring a face covering with them when their use becomes mandatory from Monday (June 15).

In order to help passengers comply with social distancing, West Midlands Railway is still asking customers to avoid the train unless their journey is necessary and they have no other way to travel.

Jonny Wiseman, customer experience director for West Midlands Railway, said:

"Covering your face while on board is now as much a part of travelling by train as buying a ticket. Wearing a face covering helps prevent the spread of coronavirus and reduces the risk for everybody.

"We know the idea of wearing a face covering will be new to many of our passengers but we are sure that after the first few journeys it will start to become second nature.

"We are appealing to our customers to avoid the train if they can and – if they do travel - to follow the rules by covering their mouth and nose."

Advice on how to make a face covering and instructions for using one are available on the government website <u>here</u>.

As well as wearing a face covering, West Midlands Railway is urging passengers to buy their tickets online, wash their hands before and after travelling and to respect social distancing whenever possible.

For the latest travel advice, visit www.wmr.uk/coronavirus or follow @WestMidRailway on Twitter.

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

 London Northwestern Railway services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston. **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit <u>westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</u> or <u>londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk</u>

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

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