

Questions and answers on wearing face coverings

Do I need to wear a face mask/covering on a hospital corridor?

Passing a person on a corridor where social distance is maintained does not require a face mask or covering. This will be subject to risk assessment by the Care provider.

Do I need to wear a face mask/covering in my GP practice?

Yes, you are asked to wear a face mask/covering in all waiting and treatment areas of all health and care facilities where social distancing may not be achievable.

What kind of face covering should I wear?

In line with WHO guidance your face covering should be triple layered cotton or polyester fabric which is washable. The covering should cover your nose and mouth.

Will I be provided with a face covering?

People attending GP practices, other community facilities and hospitals should provide their own. In exceptional circumstances staff will provide this.

What is the purpose of a face covering?

The purpose of a face covering is mainly to prevent the spread of the virus to others, though it will also provide some protection to the wearer.

If I was/am shielding should I wear a face covering?

Yes, this advice is for everyone.

What does this mean for home visits?

Face mask/covering should be used indoors for home visits if 2m distance cannot be maintained.

How should I apply, remove and take care of my face covering?

- Wash hands or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and after removing it.
- When wearing a face covering, avoid touching your face covering and face, especially eyes nose and mouth.
- Ensure it covers your nose and mouth and fits comfortably but securely

- against the side of the face.
- Avoid wearing around the neck or forehead.
 - Do not give it to someone else to use.
 - To store the face covering safely between use fold the outer surface inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface; store in a clean sealable bag.
 - Change your face covering if it becomes damp.
 - Change and wash your face covering daily.
 - If the material is washable, wash in line with manufacturer's instructions. .If it's not washable, dispose of it carefully in waste bin, followed by hand hygiene.

[For further information on face coverings visit the Department of Health \(DoH\) website.](#)