



20 July 2020

RNB/AMW/WK30

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF LIVERPOOL  
GENERAL PRACTICES/GPs**

**GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING A FACE COVERING**

Government guidance on exemptions, as stated on the *Gov.uk* website confirms that one does not need to wear a face covering if one has a legitimate reason not to. It states the reasons as including:

- young children under the age of 11
- not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate
- to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others
- to avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, and you do not have a face covering with you
- to eat or drink, but only if you need to
- to take medication
- if a police officer or other official requests you remove your face covering

It also confirms that there are also scenarios when one is permitted to remove a face covering when asked:

- If asked to do so by shop staff for the purpose of age identification
- If speaking with people who rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound. Some may ask you, either verbally or in writing, to remove a covering to help with communication

**There is no requirement for anyone to be given an exemption letter, or medical certificate, for the purpose of not wearing a face covering, as it is sufficient for one to self-declare the reason.**

Liverpool Local Medical Committee, as the representative body of GPs in Liverpool, confirms that GPs are not in a position to provide individual risk assessments, or letters to patients, who feel that they should be exempt from wearing a face covering.

**Dr Robert N Barnett**

**Secretary**