



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Date: Monday 14 September
2020

Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Services Group

Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19: Mandatory wearing of face coverings in shops and other indoor public spaces in Wales

In a statement released on Friday 11 September, the First Minister for Wales, Mark Drakeford, announced new Covid-19 rules to come into effect on Monday 14 September 2020. The new rules include:

- Compulsory face coverings to be worn in shops and indoor public spaces
- Indoor meetings to be restricted to six people or less from an extended household

We are writing to clarify the position for compulsory face coverings in all Primary Health care settings, across Wales, including dental, general medical, optometry and pharmacy services. Key points for all primary care contractors are

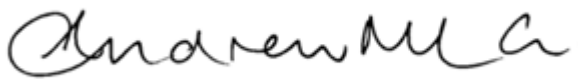
1. Any person accessing primary care services must wear a face covering unless they are exempt (see point 6 below).
2. Use of a face covering is a legal requirement unless exempt.
3. All primary care clinical and non-clinical members of staff are required to wear a face covering.
4. Primary care clinicians are expected to continue to use the appropriate PPE for clinical examinations.
5. Primary care clinicians are expected to use their judgement in determining situations where patients can be reasonably expected to remove their face covering during clinical examinations.
6. Exemption cards. Those who have an age, health or disability reason for not wearing a face covering should not be routinely asked to give any written evidence of this, this includes exemption cards. No person needs to seek advice or request a letter from a medical professional about their reason for not wearing a face covering. Some people may feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering. This could be in the form of an exemption card, badge or even a home-made sign.

This is a personal choice and is not necessary in law. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting, the reasons for this may not be visible to others. This includes (but is not limited to):

- children under the age of 11
- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- people who are accompanying somebody who relies on lip reading where they need to communicate; or
- people escaping from a threat or danger and don't have a face covering

For further information and updated guidance regarding face coverings please refer to the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/face-coverings-guidance-public#section-43644>

Yours sincerely



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David O'Sullivan

Chief Optometric Adviser / Prif Optometrig Ymgynghorol
Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.