

SUNDERLAND LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Secretary

Dr Roger N Ford

Administrator

Maxine Allan

17 July 2020

Dear Patient

Re: Guidance note for patients requesting face mask/coverings exemption letters

Sunderland Local Medical Committee is the statutory body that advises and supports GPs and practice teams. We have prepared this guidance note.

We are aware some patients may be anxious about the Government's announcements around the use of face coverings in various public settings. Wearing a face covering in shops and supermarkets will become mandatory from 24 July in England.

GPs are unfortunately **not** in a position to provide individual risk assessments or letters for patients who feel that they should be exempt from wearing a face covering.

The responsibility for issuing exemptions for those travelling on public transport lies with the transport provider not your GP. Similarly, practices are under no obligation to provide letters of support for anyone who does not fall under the list of exemptions but considers themselves to have another reason to be exempted.

The government guidance on exemptions suggests there is no requirement for evidence for exemption and therefore it is sufficient for an individual to self-declare an exemption.

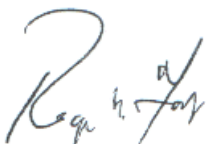
Government advice on the use of face coverings can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#face-coverings-on-public-transport>

Some people [don't have to wear a face covering](#) including for health, age or equality reasons. Some transport staff may not wear a face covering if it is not required for their job.

We hope that this guidance provides some reassurance for you on this issue.

Yours sincerely



Dr R N Ford
LMC Secretary