

15th July 2020

Re: Guidance note for patients requesting exemption letters

We are aware that some patients might be understandably anxious about the Government's recent announcements around the use of face masks/coverings in various public settings.

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 mask/covering.

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

In respect of public transport, the responsibility for issuing exemptions 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 who considers themselves to have another reason to be exempted.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

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

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.