



Covid-19 Face Coverings Exemptions Toolkit (England)

Cabinet Office

Overview - updated 11 August 2020

Background

As we continue to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, it is now mandatory and enforceable in law to wear face coverings unless you are exempt in many indoor settings such as museums, galleries, cinemas and places of worship.

Disability and health groups are concerned that some people are facing intimidation and abuse when they do not wear a face covering. **We need your help to let the public know that some people are exempt from wearing face coverings.**

Our goal

- Ensure that people are aware of, understand and follow Government advice about face coverings.
- Ensure people who are exempt from wearing face coverings can go about their life without harassment or abuse.
- Ensure businesses, the public and authorities are aware of the exemption guidance to help support those who are exempt.

I am
exempt
from
wearing
a face
covering.

Be kind.
Keep your distance.
Thank you for
understanding.





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Guidance

Exemptions guidance

There are some circumstances where people are not expected to wear face coverings due to health, age or equality, but these may not be visible to others. **Exemptions include, but are not limited to:**

- 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

Exemption cards or badges

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.

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Suggested activity and assets

How you can help - suggested activity

- Use and share the guidance, including the [voluntary exemption asset](#) as an example of optional cards/badges which those who are exempt may choose to use but is not necessary
- Balance your face covering communications with exemptions messaging
- Promote exemptions assets to aid recognition and awareness of the issue (whilst also being clear that they are voluntary)
- Amplify messaging from local and national disability and health groups

Calls to action

- Share the face covering **exemptions**, encouraging people to be kind and inclusive: [Disabled people exempt from wearing face coverings under new government guidance](#)
- Share **government guidance** on face coverings: [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#)

**I am exempt
from wearing
a face covering.**



Reporting

Please share your communications activities and results with CV19-ExternalAffairs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Let us know if you would prefer to provide feedback via another route.