

FACE COVERINGS AND MASKS

Provision of risk assessments and letters

GPs are **not** in a position to provide risk assessments or letters for patients who are worried about the new government guidance and feel they should be exempt from wearing a face mask.

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> . This link includes a list of reasons why someone might be exempt from wearing a face 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.

The responsibility for issuing exemptions lies with the transport provider, not the patient's 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 them to have another reason to be exempted.

Patients needing to travel on public transport in London may wish to print-out a self-exemption card which has been approved by TfL. This can be displayed on clothing or a lanyard. It can be found here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-coverings>