



When should I wear a face covering?



What is a face covering?

A face covering goes over your nose and mouth.



You might call it a face mask.

The law



England, Wales and Northern Ireland all have different laws about face coverings.



In England, the law says you do not have to wear a face covering.

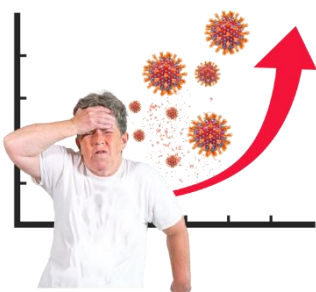
What does the Government say?



In England, the Government says it is a good idea to wear a face covering:



- when you are close to people who are more likely to be very poorly if they have coronavirus, a cold or flu



- when lots of people in England have coronavirus



and you will be close to lots of people (especially if you will be indoors with them)



- when lots of people in England have colds or flu



and you will be close to lots of people (especially if you will be indoors with them)

Why do some places ask people to wear face coverings?



Places which help people with health and care will still ask people to wear a face covering.



For example, hospitals and GP surgeries.



This is to help to stop germs spreading from person to person.



Some other places might decide to ask people to wear a face covering.



For example some shops and public transport.

What should I do if I can not wear a face covering?



If you have a very good reason not to wear a face covering, you do not have to.



This is called being **exempt** from wearing a face covering.



Exempt means that you do not have to do something that other people do.



No-one should be mean to you for not wearing a face covering.

What should I do if I can wear a face covering?



If you can wear a face covering, you might want to carry a face covering with you when you go out.



If you go to a place where they ask people to wear a face covering, you can put it on if you want to.

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