

## BLACKTHORN HEALTH CENTRE

Dr Mark Tomson  
Dr Judy Harris  
Dr Neeraj Sonpal  
Dr Ali Shahsavanpour  
Dr Elizabeth Arter  
Dr Richard Elliott



Satchell Lane, Hamble  
Southampton  
SO31 4NQ  
Tel: 023 8045 3110  
[www.blackthornhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.blackthornhealthcentre.co.uk)  
WHCCG.BlackthornHealthCentre-Reception@NHS.net

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### **COVID-19: THE COMPULSORY WEARING OF FACE COVERING IN SHOPS**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020



To Whom It May Concern,

The introduction of the requirement for people to wear face covering in shops is intended to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. This includes \*:

- *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*
- *to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others*
- *to avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, and you do not have a face covering with you*
- *to eat or drink, but only if you need to*
- *to take medication*
- *if a police officer or other official requests you remove your face covering*


These groups of people or their parents / guardians are able to indicate the reason, if required, as to why they are not wearing a face covering.

General practice is under considerable pressure as a direct result of the current challenges they are faced with delivering a service to patients at the same time as coping with the consequences of this virus.

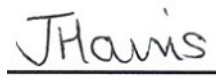
There is no requirement for general practice to issue letters for patients who are unable to wear face coverings, as the Government have clearly defined the exemptions to this requirement \*.

General practice needs to focus all its time and effort managing those who need their help and not be diverted from this by unnecessary tasks.

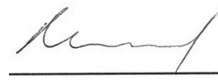
Many thanks for your help and support in this matter.



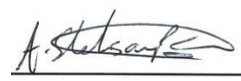
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*GP Partners*

**Blackthorn Health Centre**

\* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#exemptions-to-wearing-a-face-covering-where-they-are-mandated>