



What are the rules about wearing 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 now says you do not have to wear a face covering.



This means that the police will not **fine** you if you do not wear a face covering.



A **fine** is when you have to pay money because you have done something wrong.

What does the Government say?



In England, the Government has said it is up to each person to decide what they think it is best to do.



The Government says you should wear a face covering in places where there are lots of people who are close to each other.



For example, on public transport.

Why do some places have rules about face coverings?



Some places can make their own rules.



For example, shops and pubs.



Some shops and pubs have decided to have a rule which says they would like people to wear a face covering.



If a shop or pub would like people to wear a face covering, they might ask you to leave if you do not wear one.



Businesses who provide transport can make their own rules too.



Transport for London have said you have to wear a face covering on all of their transport and in all of their stations.



If a business who provides transport has made a rule about wearing a face covering, they can stop you travelling if you do not wear one.

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.



You might want to have a card with you to help you explain why you are not wearing a face covering.



There is a card you can print or download to your phone on [this page](#).



There is no law about having to use a card to explain why you are not wearing a face covering.



You do not have to use a card if you do not want to.



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 have a rule which says you have to wear a face covering, you can put it on.



Some places have a rule saying that you can choose if you want to wear a face covering.



The information below might help you to decide if you want to wear a face covering.



Coronavirus can spread in the air from person to person in coughs, sneezes and our breath.



Some people do not know that they have coronavirus.



Face coverings can help to stop you from spreading the virus.



But they do not stop you from catching it.



You wear a face covering to keep the people around you safer.

Other people wear a face covering to keep you safer.



How do I find out about the rules on face coverings?

If you are not sure if the shop or pub you want to go to has rules about face coverings, you can ask the staff at the door.



If you are going to travel by transport, it is a good idea to find out the rules about face coverings for the transport you are going to use.



You could look this up on the internet, or ask when you buy your ticket.



You could also ask your support staff, or someone you trust to help you to find out the rules.

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