

INFORMATION ABOUT FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

1. Requirement to wear a Face Covering

As of 24 July 2020, it is a requirement of English Law that face coverings are worn on Public Transport and in Shops and Supermarkets and you are strongly advised to wear a face covering in other enclosed public spaces such as places of worship. Guidance from The Church of England states: We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

2. What is a face covering?

A face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. You may also use a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face. Face coverings are largely intended to protect others against the spread of infection.

3. How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth and fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable & ideally include two layers of fabric

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck/forehead or touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth/nose and change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- if single-use, dispose of it. If reusable, wash it
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

4. Exemptions to wearing a face covering

There are circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, whereby people are not expected to wear face coverings. These include:

- young children under the age of 11
- not being able wear or remove a face covering because of an illness 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

5. Further Information

For further detailed information please go to: www.gov.uk/guidance or www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches

THANK YOU!