

Wednesday, 23 September 2020

## [Health Protection](#)



### Why do I need to wear a face covering?

Wearing a face mask or face covering can reduce the spread of COVID-19. Everyone should wear a face covering in enclosed spaces, including Health and Social Care facilities, where it is not possible to keep a distance of at least 2 metres apart from other people, unless you are exempt for any medical or disability reasons.\*

### What does this mean for staff?

- **All staff in community, primary and secondary care** must wear a face covering inside healthcare facilities and communal areas. The wearing of face coverings must be adhered to particularly in staff rooms and rest areas that can't guarantee being 'COVID-secure'. A 'COVID-secure' environment is one where 2 metres social distancing, optimal hand hygiene, frequent surface decontamination, ventilation and other measures are in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- **Clinical staff** who work in patient/client/resident facing roles must replace their face covering with a clinical grade face mask when they reach their clinical area to comply with guidelines on the use of PPE.



Following new guidance from the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer, this factsheet outlines the advice on face coverings for all Health and Social Care staff in facilities throughout Northern Ireland.

## Details

Format

A4 two page factsheet

Target group

Health and Social Care staff

## Downloads

**Attachment**

**Size**

## Tags

- [face coverings](#)
- [coronavirus](#)
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