

# Staff guidelines for face coverings in all Health and Social Care facilities



## 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.

## How do I put on, take off, store and dispose of my face coverings?

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser before putting on a face covering, and after removing it
- Ensure it covers your nose and mouth and fits comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- When wearing a face covering, avoid touching your face covering, hair and face, especially the eyes, nose and mouth
- Do not wear around the neck or forehead
- **Do not** give it to someone else to use
- Change your face covering if it becomes damp
- Wash your face covering daily; keep a spare clean face covering and alternate them
- Wash in line with manufacturer's instructions. If it's not washable, dispose of it carefully in a waste bin, and wash your hands.
- To store the face covering safely between uses, fold the outer surface inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface; store in a clean sealable bag.

Please continue to minimise the spread of COVID-19 by:

- catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue
- maintaining social distance
- washing your hands properly and regularly



**CATCH IT.**

**BIN IT.**

**KILL IT.**

\*Based on recommendations from Public Health England Infection Prevention and Control. For more on implementing COVID-secure measures, please refer to the Chief Medical Officer's and Chief Nursing Officer's letter at [pha.site/CMOletter](http://pha.site/CMOletter)