

Face coverings

Face coverings can help contain any droplets you produce and therefore when worn correctly in certain circumstances, they may reduce the possibility of you transmitting COVID-19 to other people. A face covering is not Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and they are not intended to protect the wearer. They are not therefore intended to replace social distancing, or personal hygiene (regular hand washing for 20 seconds and following catch it, bin it, kill it advice); the measures that when combined are the most effective means of limiting the spread of the virus.

It is very important that even when you wear a face covering you remain vigilant and continue with these measures.

Multi layered face coverings are considered to be most effective.

It is also important to remember, if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (a new persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss/change to your sense of taste or smell), no matter how mild, you should self-isolate and seek to get tested.

Wearing a face covering does not make it safe to go out in the community or to work if you have COVID-19.

Wearing a face covering will also not exempt you from the requirement to self-isolate if you are a close contact of someone who tests positive.

However, it is recognised that in some settings, despite all best endeavours, it is not always possible to maintain 2m distance and therefore wearing a face covering is now required in a number of circumstances:

- When using public transport
- When visiting a hospital
- When visiting a number of enclosed public places including retail, consumer services and visitor attractions

Primary Schools

In primary schools, face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering.

The use of face coverings:

- Should not replace the measures outlined in the compliance code which reduce the risk of virus transmission.
- Must be managed in a hygienic way to reduce the risk of contamination and transmission.

Where homemade non-disposable face coverings are used the wearer must store these, folded in on themselves in a plastic bag when not in use.

Hemsby Primary School
Face Covering Policy – March 2021



Anyone wearing a face covering must be able to put it on and take it off safely themselves.

Face visors or shields should not be worn as an alternative to face coverings. They may protect against droplet spread in specific circumstances but are unlikely to be effective in reducing aerosol transmission when used without an additional face covering.

Settings should provide users of face coverings with information on how to put on and take off a face covering safely as follows:

1. wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and after removing it
2. make sure it covers your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
3. when wearing a face covering, avoid touching your face or face covering, as you could transfer the virus to or from it
4. avoid wearing it around your neck or on your forehead between use
5. when you take your face covering off, be careful not to touch the front or inside of it, fold it in on itself and store safely in a bag between wears or before washing COVID-19
6. change your face covering if it becomes damp, damaged or if you've touched it (as face coverings are used for longer in some settings consideration should be given to instructing students and staff to bring more than one covering to setting so they can change regularly)
7. change and wash reusable face coverings daily in line with manufacturer's instructions (more than one covering may be needed as above)
8. if it's not washable, dispose of it carefully in your usual waste
9. do not share your face covering with someone else

Please note, for some people it would not be appropriate for them or you to wear a face covering, for example where it would cause distress or exacerbate a health condition or where they rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound to communicate.