

POLICY FOR MASK WEARING WHEN ATTENDING THE SURGERY

19TH JULY 2021 -THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY AS PER GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

1. We are a complex organisation looking after a wide variety of people with lots of different complex problems.
2. It is essential that we keep COVID19 out of the surgery to protect everyone from this deadly disease ESPECIALLY those that are clinically more vulnerable and need regular medical treatment at the surgery.
3. In order to reduce the risk of COVID19 spreading it is essential that **ALL PATIENTS WEAR FACE MASKS WHEN THEY COME INTO THE SURGERY THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL IT IS ESSENTIAL, THEY MUST BE WORN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION FROM THE WEARER. VISORS ALONE DO NOT OFFER SUFFICIENT PROTECTION TO OTHERS.**
4. **MASKS DO NOT AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF OXYGEN THAT GETS INTO YOUR BODY AND ARE UNCOMFORTABLE BUT NOT HARMFUL PARTICULARLY SINCE YOU WILL ONLY BE ASKED TO WEAR THE MASK FOR A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.**
5. There will be some people are medically exempt that struggle to wear a mask/visor due to severe breathing / anxiety problems. We will, of course, endeavour to provide a service to these patients **IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.**
6. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WEAR A MASK YOU WILL RECEIVE A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A CLINICIAN TO ASCERTAIN THE BEST WAY IN WHICH TO OFFER YOU A SERVICE. THIS MAY MEAN ARRANGING AN APPOINTMENT IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT WITH A CLINICIAN WEARING EXTRA PPE. YOU MAY BE ASKED TO WAIT OUTSIDE BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK OR AT LEAST A VISOR INTO & WHILST LEAVING THE PREMISES (COMMUNAL AREAS). THE CLINICIAN THAT YOU ARE SEEING NEEDS TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH YOU REMOVING YOUR MASK/VISOR DURING THE CONSULTATION (THIS MAY MEAN THAT FACE TO FACE ACCESS TO SOME CLINICIANS MAY BE LIMITED). SOME PROCEDURES AND VERBAL COMMUNICATION MAY BE LIMITED DURING THE APPOINTMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WEAR A MASK/VISOR.**