

PATIENTS ATTENDING DERBYSHIRE GP SURGERIES TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS

For Immediate Release

11.06.2020 DERBY: From today ALL patients attending GP surgeries across Derbyshire will be asked to wear face coverings.

From next week (15 June), it will be compulsory to wear face coverings on public transport and in hospitals in England.

Now, to protect patients and NHS staff, Derbyshire GP practices are to follow suit by urging patients to provide, and wear their own face coverings in surgeries, as well as continuing to follow hand-washing and social distancing guidelines. As per government guidance, exemptions apply to very young children, disabled patients and those with breathing difficulties.

Dr Susie Bayley, Medical Director of the GP Task Force, said: “We know it is possible to pass on coronavirus when you don’t have any symptoms. Face-coverings protect those near you from the virus, as my mask protects you and your mask protects me. Face coverings are not a substitute for hand-washing or social distancing, but they are additional measure in the fight against coronavirus, to protect ourselves and our loved ones.”

Dr Duncan Gooch, Chair of the Derbyshire GP Alliance said: “We feel this step is necessary to protect our patients and ensure we have a clear and consistent approach across our county. The evidence supports implementation of this public health measure now. Patients across the county will be contacted by text message and we thank them for supporting us.”

Evidence from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) supports face coverings as a means of reducing coronavirus transmission through droplet spread especially for those infected with coronavirus but not showing any symptoms.

The British Medical Association has also called for the extension of the wearing of face coverings to all ‘health, community and social care settings’.

You can find out how to make a low-cost face covering, including options for those who rely on lip-reading on the Derbyshire General Practice Task Force website.

<https://gptaskforce.com/coronavirus/>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The General Practice Task Force, Derbyshire

The GP Taskforce serves all 112 practices and over 700 GPs across Derbyshire. It exists to provide wraparound support for Derbyshire general practice and their teams and provides operational support to the Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee and the Derbyshire GP Alliance.

The Derbyshire GP Alliance

Is a collective of Derbyshire based GP leaders; representing, advocating for and developing General Practice in Derbyshire and providing strategic direction to develop and improve community-based health care.

Face Coverings

Face Coverings are different from Face Masks. Coverings protect other people, while masks are predominantly used by key workers.

A Face Covering should be made from multiple layers of a tightly woven fabric, and snugly fit over the mouth and nose.

Further public health information on how to safely use and wear a mask can be found on the <http://www.gov.uk> website.

You can find out more at <https://gptaskforce.com/coronavirus>

For more information please call 01332 210008

Available on request:

Video how to make a face covering

Video of a GP surgery

Interviews