

POLICY FOR MASK WEARING WHEN ATTENDING THE SURGERY

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 as there has been an outbreak at a surgery in Herefordshire which came very close to closing 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 who choose not to wear a mask and those that struggle to wear them due to severe breathing problems. We will of course endeavour to provide a service to these patients **BUT WE CANNOT RISK THE HEALTH OF THE WHOLE PATIENT POPULATION WE SERVE AND OUR STAFF FOR THIS REASON, THAT WOULD BE UNFAIR AND UNWORKABLE.**
6. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WEAR A MASK YOU WILL RECEIVE A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A GP 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 WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR AT LEAST A VISOR AND VERBAL COMMUNICATION WILL BE LIMITED DURING THE APPOINTMENT.**