

# FACE MASK POLICY



## **Please wear a face mask**

**By law, you must wear a face covering in healthcare settings in Scotland.**

**Face coverings have been proven to be highly effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19.**

The virus is spread through respiratory droplets that are exhaled when you cough, sneeze, talk or breathe - and these droplets are then inhaled by somebody else.

A large number of scientific studies have proven that face mask block up to 80% of these droplets from escaping into the air. They also prevent about 50% of droplets from being inhaled too.

Wearing a face covering reduces the risk of you passing the disease on to our staff, which could cause the surgery to close and leave our 9,000 patients without access to medical treatment.

Wearing a face mask also reduces the risk of you catch the disease from our staff.

## **Exemptions**

Only a very small number of people are unable to wear a face mask. Please remember we have your full medical records and know who is unable to wear one.

We know face-masks can be a bit annoying but ask that you persevere with this for the short time you are in the surgery.

Healthcare staff wear face-masks all day, every day. We do this to protect our patients. Please show us the same courtesy.

## **Refusal to Wear a Mask**

If you refuse to wear a mask we will ask you to wait outside the building until a senior clinician can assess whether we are able to safely treat you in the surgery or if alternative arrangements need to be made.

This may take some time as our clinicians will be busy with their own patients.