



Department
of Health &
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From Jo Churchill MP
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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 July to Sajid Javid on behalf of a number of your constituents, about COVID-19 and face coverings.

I understand your constituents' concerns. From the beginning of the outbreak, our policies have been guided by the advice of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, which is led by the Chief Scientific Adviser and Chief Medical Officer for England.

The success of the vaccine rollout means that we are in a better position to ease restrictions. We are therefore removing the vast majority of outstanding legal restrictions, including the legal requirement to wear face coverings. However, the risk from COVID-19 has not gone away, and face coverings remain an important way to help reduce the spread of the virus, which is why we expect and recommend that they continue to be used, particularly in indoor spaces where individuals come into contact with people whom they do not normally meet.

With over 85 per cent of the adult population now having had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, we are moving away from legal rules to an approach that enables personal risk-based judgements. However, published guidance will continue to recommend that wearing a face covering will help reduce the wearer's risk and the risk to others.

Businesses can consider encouraging the use of face coverings by customers and workers, particularly in enclosed and crowded spaces, through the use of signage. Passengers on public transport are advised to check with operators before travelling about any policies they may have put in place.

I hope this reply is helpful to your constituents.

JO CHURCHILL