

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Re: Guidance note for patients requesting exemption letters**

We are aware that some patients might be understandably anxious about the Government's recent announcements around the use of face masks in various public settings including shops.

There are certain groups of people who are exempt from this requirement and they include:

- *children under the age of 11*
- *people with disabilities*
- *those with breathing difficulties or*
- *those who are travelling with someone who relies on lip reading.*

GPs are unfortunately not in a position to provide individual risk assessments or letters for patients who feel that they should be exempt from wearing a face mask.

Somerset LMC has therefore prepared this guidance note as the statutory body that advises and supports all GPs and practice teams across the county.

**The current government guidance on exemptions suggests there is no requirement for evidence for exemption therefore it is sufficient for an individual to self-declare this.**

We hope that this guidance provides some reassurance for you on this matter.

Yours sincerely



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