

## Wearing face coverings when coming to hospital / clinics at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

People infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19) can have very mild or even no respiratory (breathing) symptoms but can still transmit the virus to others without being aware of it. In line with government guidance, we are introducing new measures at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust to keep everyone safe. This leaflet gives advice on how to follow these measures.

**From Monday 15 June 2020, you will need to wear a face covering when you come as a visitor or outpatient to the Royal Berkshire Hospital or any of our other clinic sites.**

### What does this mean for me?

We can all play a role in reducing the spread of Coronavirus and keeping our hospitals safe. If you are coming to hospital as a visitor or for planned outpatient care, it is important that you wear a face covering at all times. This is for your safety and the safety of other patients and staff.

Cloth face coverings can be bought or homemade, and advice on how to make and wear one can be found on [www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering). Face coverings worn as part of religious beliefs or cultural practice are also acceptable, providing they cover the mouth and nose, and are not loose.

**We ask that you plan in advance and bring a face covering with you, whenever possible.** If you do not have one available when you come to hospital, please see a member of staff on arrival in the department and we will provide you with one.

If you are currently shielding and have been provided with a surgical face mask for your appointments, please continue to use this. If you have not been provided with a surgical face mask, you should wear a face covering.

For some people, wearing a face covering may be difficult due to physical or mental health conditions. In these instances, other measures will be considered on a case by case basis. For example, by timed appointments and being seen immediately on arrival.

All visitors will be expected to comply with existing social distancing and hand hygiene measures in addition to the face coverings while in the hospital setting.

**If you have any symptoms of Coronavirus (high temperature, continuous new cough, loss of taste and smell) do not come to the hospital. If you have an appointment, ring us to rearrange this.**