

What is this document?

GMCDP has responded to the current news that face coverings have been made compulsory in enclosed spaces like shops and public transport. Transport for Greater Manchester have assured us that some disabled people will be exempt from this. The Government have provided guidance that this will also extend to shops and other enclosed environments. We are currently discussing what this means for the disabled community and will be trying to influence decisions moving forward. In the meantime, we have decided to create another emergency document to help navigate this as smoothly as possible.

We would like to stress that if you can wear a face mask, then you should. There are some examples where it would be a necessity to not wear one and these would be; if the disabled person has breathing needs and a face mask would prevent this, or would find it hard to apply/ remove a mask themselves, or has high anxiety that a mask would cause panic attacks. Wearing one creates a more accessible environment for these people by preventing the spread of any potential germs you could be carrying.

The Face Coverings Exemption letter has been created by GMCDP as an immediate response to this news and was always intended to be used as a temporary precaution. We would normally be cautious of using a card to identify as a disabled person, however with the threat of fines looming, we feel it may be useful for some of our members to have.

This document contains a formal letter with a detachable card. Please cut the bottom of the letter, fold it, then stick together and it should become a pocket-sized card for you to carry.



GMCDP,
Unit 4,
70 Alexandra Road,
Moss Side,
Manchester,
M16 7WD

To whom it may concern,

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) hope those reading this will use reasonable judgement and act appropriately before considering any actions against this person. Please consider the following message:

The holder of this letter is exempt from wearing a face mask under the Equalities Act 2010. The Government have provided guidance that those who have impairments are not required to wear a face mask in enclosed spaces.

Transport for Greater Manchester have already provided their disabled passengers with a face mask exemption card and if this individual has one, they can show you this. GMCDP have also created a temporary face mask exemption card, attached to the bottom of this letter and we would hope that you accept this.

We are currently working with The Greater Manchester Disabled Peoples Panel (GMDPP) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to address the sudden decision to make wearing a face mask compulsory and what that means for the disabled community. In the meantime, please take the access needs of this individual into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People



 <p>The bearer of this card is exempt from using a face covering under UK Government Covid 19 guidelines and the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Disabled Person's Face Covering Exemption Card</p>	<p>Exemptions are detailed in government Covid guidance gov.uk/coronavirus. Disabled people are defined under the Equality Act 2010 as - having a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: right;">GMCDP.com</p>
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