

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Dear patient,

**Update: masks from 19<sup>th</sup> July onwards**

We thought it would be helpful to clarify the position about attending GP practices post 19 July when all restrictions are expected to ease.

The government announced that legal restrictions requiring the public to wear face coverings indoors will be eased from 19 July along with rules concerning social distancing and the number of people you can meet indoors.

Health and care leaders say while restrictions are being eased in some public places, strict infection control measures need to be followed in healthcare settings.

This will reduce the risk of vulnerable people from becoming infected and help prevent Covid-19 outbreaks that could result in the temporary closure of a surgery.

As such, patients and visitors to GP practices across Suffolk and north east Essex will be required to wear face coverings. Any patient who fails to observe these protocols will be asked to do so.

Treating all patients, especially those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, in a clinically safe environment is our top priority and we will do everything we can to ensure this happens.

It will remain a legal requirement for people to self-isolate if they test positive or are told to do so by NHS Test and Trace. Please therefore stay away from the practice if you do test positive for Covid.

Yours faithfully

Burlington Primary Care

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