

Guidelines on the use of face coverings at Salford Village Hall

From 8th August, 2020 face coverings are required to be worn inside village and community halls in line with guidelines set by the Department of Health and Social Care.

This means that on entering a village hall, you will be required to wear a face covering, and will be required to keep it on, unless you are covered under a 'reasonable excuse'.

Exceptions to wearing face coverings include:

- Attending a fitness class;
- Eating and drinking;
- Children under the age of 11 (Public Health England does not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons);
- People who cannot put on, wear, or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability;
- Employees of indoor settings (or people acting on their behalf, such as someone leading part of a prayer service);
- Police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public;
- Where putting on, wearing, or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress;
- If you are speaking to or assisting someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate;
- To avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others - including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity.

Trustees and managers are not able to enforce wearing face coverings. However, hirers can be required to encourage those attending activities to do so and/or to comply with the relevant guidance for their sector.

The requirement for people to wear a face covering may help people feel more comfortable about attending activities, but there may be circumstances where it does not appear appropriate. The risk assessment principles set out at the end of Appendix D may then be helpful in applying the requirements.