Swanwood Partnership Practice policy on patients wearing face masks

**15 May 2020**

We are asking you not to come into the surgery but to phone the receptionist if you need clinical advice or need to discuss your health with a doctor or nurse. If we can deal with the issue over the phone/video consultation, that is what we should do.  This is to do what we can to stop the spread of COVID-19 in line with the national guidance on social distancing.

However, some patients will need to come into the surgery when asked by the doctor or nurse following telephone consultation for further assessment.

**We advise that you wear a face mask or other face covering to come into the Swanwood Partnership (Applewood Surgery)**, when asked by the doctor or nurse to attend in person for assessment:

We **do** ask you to respect the need to keep a safe distance of 2 metres from the reception desk.  There are markers on the floor to help with that.

There is a table at the door where you can:

* pick up sample pots and
* drop off samples and other things that need dropping off.

**If you have symptoms of COVID-19**

* **You should absolutely not be coming to the practice but should discuss your health matters on phone** and you will be advised on what next steps will be taken to help your assessment and manage your health condition

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**Guidance: Copied from Gov.uk website**

**Staying safe outside your home**

**Published 11 May 2020**

**Face coverings**

Recent Government Advice (11/05/2020) for public to wear face mask/face covering:

If you can, **wear a face covering in an enclosed space where social distancing isn’t possible and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet**.

Evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you. However, if you are infected but have not yet developed symptoms, it may provide some protection for others you come into close contact with.

Face coverings do not replace social distancing. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (cough and/or high temperature), you and your household must isolate at home: wearing a face covering does not change this.

Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 2 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly. For example, primary age children unassisted, or those with respiratory conditions.

It is important to use face coverings properly and wash your hands before putting them on and taking them off.

You can [make face-coverings at home](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering). The key thing is it should cover the mouth and nose.

**If the Government advice on the wearing of face masks in public changes, we will review this policy, and let you know if it changes.**