

---

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

---

**2020 No. 791**

**The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place) (England) Regulations 2020**

**PART 2**

**Relevant place: requirement to wear a face covering**

**Reasonable excuse**

**4.—(1)** For the purposes of regulation 3(1), the circumstances in which a person (“P”) has a reasonable excuse include those where—

- (a) P cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering—
  - (i) because of any physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability (within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010<sup>(1)</sup>), or
  - (ii) without severe distress;
- (b) P is accompanying, or providing assistance to, another person (“B”) and B relies on lip reading to communicate with P;
- (c) P removes their face covering to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to themselves or others;
- (d) P is entering or within a relevant place to avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, and does not have a face covering with them;
- (e) it is reasonably necessary for P to eat or drink, P removes their face covering to eat or drink;
- (f) P has to remove their face covering to take medication;
- (g) a person responsible for a relevant place or an employee of that person acting in the course of their employment, requires that P remove their face covering in order to verify P’s identity;
- (h) in a registered pharmacy, an employee of that registered pharmacy acting in the course of their employment, requires that P remove their face covering in order to assist in the provision of healthcare or healthcare advice to P;
- (i) a relevant person requests that P remove their face covering.

(2) In this regulation “registered pharmacy” has the same meaning as in section 74 of the Medicines Act 1968<sup>(2)</sup>.

---

(1) 2010 c. 15.  
(2) 1968 c. 67.