

From 29/07/2020, it is compulsory to wear a face covering in shops in the UK. However, **CHILDREN UNDER 3 SHOULD NOT** wear face coverings - they pose a potential risk of choking and suffocation.

Public Health England have issued an urgent warning:



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"PHE has been made aware that face coverings for babies and very young children are available for sale in England.

Guidance is clear that children under the age of three years should NOT wear face coverings or masks, these masks should not be used as they are potentially dangerous and can cause choking and suffocation.

If you or your child is unwell with the symptoms of COVID-19, then you should get a test and stay at home until you get the result. If you are worried then you should call 111 or speak to your doctor."

Professor Viv Bennett, Chief Nurse, Public Health England

- **Children aged under three years of age should not wear face coverings or masks**
- Wearing face coverings/masks is **not compulsory** in any public setting for **children aged 3-11**
- We advise adults and children over the age of 11 years to wear face masks in enclosed public spaces where it is difficult to socially distance. This may help prevent transmission of virus to someone else if you are infected but do not yet have symptoms
- Any adult or child with symptoms should self-isolate in line with the **stay at home guidance** and get tested.

Please see social media posting that can be shared to your local service page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland/photos/a.366632073374148/3266141270089866/?type=3&theater> >

Government advice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home#face-coverings>

[The Lullaby Trust](#) have produced some guidance/advice on COVID-19 if pregnant or caring for a young child.

Please share this with your colleagues & services.