

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

July 2021

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about wearing face coverings.

As you will know, we have now moved to Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap to ease restrictions. The emphasis of the national response to coronavirus has therefore now shifted from rules and regulation towards expecting people to protect themselves, and others, through informed choice. The legal obligation to wear a face covering has ended. It is however expected and recommended that people wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, such as on public transport. In private settings, such as shops, it is up to private businesses to decide what rules, if any, they wish to have in place.

I am told that in September, the Government will undertake a review to assess the country's preparedness for autumn and winter, which will consider whether to continue or strengthen public and business guidance as we approach the winter, including on face coverings.

I appreciate that this may be a worrying time for some. The virus is still with us; it has not gone away and the risk of a dangerous new variant that evades vaccines remains real. However, with our incredible vaccine rollout and the treatments available to those who are hospitalised with COVID-19, the link between cases, hospitalisations and deaths has been substantially weakened.

As we move forward, we must all remember the sensible precautions we can take to keep us all safe. That means staying at home when asked to self-isolate, considering the guidance that has been set out, and getting both doses of the vaccine when offered.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*Yours sincerely
Peter Gibson*

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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