

References

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4. Bundgaard, H., et al., *Effectiveness of Adding a Mask Recommendation to Other Public Health Measures to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Danish Mask Wearers : A Randomized Controlled Trial*. Ann Intern Med, 2021. **174**(3): p. 335-343.
5. Abaluck, J., et al., *Impact of community masking on COVID-19: A cluster-randomized trial in Bangladesh*. Science, 2022. **375**(6577): p. eabi9069.

Appendix

Methods

Sources

We used the following sources to identify the key events or decisions, key players and key documents for theme 5, by using the following keywords: “Personal Protective Equipment”, PPE, coverings, masks, “face coverings”, “face masks”.

- 1) A [timeline](#) by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre that focuses on Scotland’s response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and includes all major developments. The timeline runs from 31/12/2019 and was last accessed on 11/02/2022.
- 2) Three timelines of the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland for [2020](#), [2021](#), and [2022](#) by Wikipedia, last accessed on 11/02/2022.
- 3) Two audit reports from Audit Scotland. Audit Scotland is an independent organisation that produces local and national reports about the performance and financial management of Scotland's public bodies. The [first audit report](#) was about the NHS in Scotland in 2020 and was published in February 2021. The [second audit report](#) was about COVID-19 Personal Protective equipment and was published in June 2021.
- 4) [Minutes and papers](#) from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) meetings.
- 5) [Minutes and papers](#) from the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group.
- 6) Reports and Correspondence of the [Health & Sport Committee](#).
- 7) To source academic literature on relevant topics we searched the [COVID-END inventory of “best evidence syntheses”](#), which presents the current state of evidence for COVID-19 related issues to support decision-makers.

Data extraction and event prioritisation

For each identified event we extracted the following information: Date, a summary of a key event, sub-theme, key players (including bodies and/ or people), relevant reports, or other documents (including news items, guidelines, parliamentary documents, audit reports), and relevant research papers and publications (including preprints).

Decisions or milestones that need to be prioritised for investigation (including investigation of their timing) by the Inquiry team were characterised as key. We used the following definitions. A key decision is a decision directly relevant to Scotland and a decision taken by the Scottish government and a decision that had the potential to impact the course of the pandemic and its direct or indirect consequences. A key milestone is a key event that marks an important point in the progress of the pandemic or a key decision taken outside Scotland that had a potential impact on the course of the pandemic in Scotland and its direct or indirect consequences.

Appendix Table 5.1: Key events with dates, type, main body/ persons involved, and relevant reports for Theme 5.				
The key issues that were highlighted by the public inquiry included: PPE issues in care homes, availability, and supply of PPE across other settings, conflicting messages and confusing guidance around PPE in the early stages of the pandemic, fragility of supply chains and procurement systems/regulation in circumstances of significant demand, the process of awarding government contracts (which led to led to inequities in access to PPE early in the pandemic, including the lack of PPE for frontline and essential keyworkers such as social care staff and retail workers).				
Additional issues identified by UNCOVER: Fit of masks for ethnic minorities and women; issues in relation to the use of masks for people that rely on lip reading				
Impact on equalities: Inequities in access to PPE for some frontline workers – e.g. retail, social care, different health care roles; fit of masks for ethnic minorities and women; issues in relation to the use of masks for people that rely on lip reading; issues in relation to people being subject of hate crimes or refused access to shops when exempted prior to the issue of exemption cards				
Key events (with dates)	Topic	Main body/persons involved	Relevant documents	Commentary
January 2020 The 4 nations public health high consequence infectious disease (HCID) group made an interim recommendation in January 2020 to classify COVID-19 as an HCID	PPE use in healthcare settings	4 nations public health high consequence infectious disease; Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid#status-of-COVID-19	
24/01/2020 PPE distributed to GPs from pandemic stockpile	Distribution of PPE	Scottish government	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	
Key milestone 04/2/2020 Use of face masks for the general public is discussed for the first time in SAGE	Community face mask/ covering use	SAGE, New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-4-february-2020/sage-4-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-4-february-2020	1) SAGE heard that NERVTAG advises that there is limited to no evidence of the benefits of the general public wearing facemasks as a preventative measure. 2) Facemasks and other personal protective equipment in the community is only advised for health and social care workers visiting individuals who may be infectious. 3) There is some evidence that wearing of face masks by symptomatic individuals may reduce transmission to other people, and therefore NERVTAG also recommends that symptomatic people should be encouraged to wear a surgical face mask, providing that it can be tolerated.

<p>Key decision 19/03/2020 COVID-19 no longer classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease in the UK, affecting the type of PPE required *</p>	PPE use in healthcare settings		<p>https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf</p> <p>Living review on the Epidemiology of and Risk Factors for Coronavirus Infection in Health Care Workers: https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-4294</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid#status-of-COVID-19</p>	*High consequence infectious diseases such as Ebola and SARs have a high case fatality rate and require full body PPE. Source: Audit Scotland
<p>19/03/2020 Call convened, initially daily, between the SG, NHS in Scotland and government organisations to develop Scottish PPE manufacturing</p>	PPE manufacturing in Scotland	SG, NHS in Scotland and government organisations	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
<p>19/03/2020 NHS NSS sets up social care helpline to triage urgent requests for PPE</p>	Distribution of PPE	NHS NSS	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
<p>22/03/2020 Letter from the Minister for Trade, Innovation and Public Finance to Scottish companies appealing for support with provision of PPE</p>	PPE provision	Minister for Trade, Innovation and Public Finance	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
<p>23/03/2020 NHS supply chain external mailbox set up to receive offers from companies</p>	PPE provision	NHS NSS	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
<p>26/03/2020 SAGE discussed an HSE report about the</p>	PPE use in healthcare settings	SAGE, Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-26-march-	HSE found no material difference between the N95 and FFP2 respirator masks. Both provide protection as long as the wearer is

difference of N95 and FFP2 respirator masks.			2020/sage-19-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-26-march-2020 HSE report on difference between N95 and FFP2 (Couldn't find it)	face-fit tested. Choice of masks needs to risk-assessment driven. Further advice for NHS and PHE on overall PPE will be completed within 24 hours.
30/03/2020 Single Point of Contact group established as a forum to address PPE issues at NHS board-level	PPE issues	NHS Health boards	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
Key milestone 30/03/2020 Eight weeks' supply of PPE was delivered to GPs in Scotland during the week of 30 March.	Distribution of PPE	Scottish government	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
31/03/2020 SAGE committee discussed COVID-19 and nosocomial transmission	PPE use in healthcare settings	SAGE, NHS England	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-31-march-2020/sage-21-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-31-march-2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892032/S0091_Nosocomial_Transmission_of_Coronavirus.pdf	NHS England provided some research options on nosocomial transmission and potential interventions, noting that ongoing work on PPE guidance is also linked to this. Nosocomial (hospital acquired) transmission can affect HCWs and/or patients. It can take place between HCWs, HCWs to and from patients, and between patients; the scale of these are unknown. It is either caused by exposure of HCWs before they are protected with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or due to incorrect wearing of it and lapses in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices. Effective IPC has been challenging in recent weeks with high rates of staff absence amongst cleaning staff. There has been reported confusion over the use of PPE as well as shortages of some critical items.

<p>Key milestone April 2020 Centrally held PPE stocks were very low at points during April 2020 as stock was rapidly distributed to NHS boards:</p>	Availability of PPE	Scottish government	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland 0.3 days' worth of stock of long sleeve gowns 1 day of FFP3 masks 2 days of visors.
<p>01/04/2020 Scottish Government sets up PPE helpline mailbox for health and social care staff to report PPE issues</p>	PPE issues	Scottish government	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	Source: Audit Scotland
<p>Key decision 02/04/2020 The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to the Convener to inform the Committee of revised PPE guidance has been published from Health Protection Scotland.</p>	PPE use in health and social care settings	Jeane Freeman, Lewis Macdonald, Health Protection Scotland, Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England and NHS England	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200302_HS_Ltr_IN_CabSecHS.pdf	The guidance outlined what PPE frontline health and social care workers should be wearing in different settings and scenarios. The guidance had input from Royal Colleges and was endorsed by expert scientific groups.
<p>07/04/2020 SAGE discussion on whether increased use of face masks will have an effect on infection</p>	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE, NERVTAG	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-7-april-2020/sage-23-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-7-april-2020	NERVTAG concluded that increased use of masks would have minimal effect (in terms of preventing the uninfected general population from becoming infected), based on a review of the available evidence. Questions were raised about whether this would change if it were found that individuals have high levels of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic infectiousness (in which case could masks reduce early pre-symptomatic spread).
<p>09/4/2020 SAGE discussion on whether increased use of face masks will have an effect on infection</p>	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE, NERVTAG	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-9-april-2020/sage-24-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-9-april-2020	WHO has concluded there is currently no conclusive evidence that facemasks are beneficial for community use.

			https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890039/S0117-rapid-review-face-masks-070420-sage24.pdf https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331693/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.3-eng.pdf	SAGE will review a NERVTAG paper on facemasks at its next meeting, covering their value in limiting spread from pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases and what potential research studies might be commissioned.
09/04/2020 Joint statement and guidance issued by the Scottish Government, COSLA and SJC Unions on PPE use in social care	Use of PPE	Scottish Government, Health Protection Scotland, COSLA and SJC Unions; The guidance had input from Royal Colleges and is endorsed by expert scientific groups, as well as the Chief Medical Officers and Chief Nursing Officers in the UK.	Protecting the social care workforce - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) Guidance published on 2 April 2020: https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-our-frontline-staff/	The Scottish Government with COSLA and the SJC Unions have agreed today that the guidance jointly published by the Department of Health and Social Care, Health Protection Scotland (HPS), Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England on 2 April 2020 is the official and fully comprehensive guidance on the matter of the use of PPE in the context of COVID19.
Key decision 14/04/2020 SAGE concludes that evidence does not currently support use of face masks to protect the wearer in the general population.	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE, NERVTAG	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-14-april-2020/sage-25-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-14-april-2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890043/S0127-nervtag-face-mask-use-in-the-community-130420-sage25.pdf	Evidence does not currently support use of face masks to protect the wearer in the general population. Overall, the evidence that masks could prevent spread is weak, but probably marginally in favour of a small effect. Circumstances where there may be benefits included enclosed environments with poor ventilation, and around vulnerable people. Conversely, there are unlikely to be any significant benefits in use of masks outdoors. There are communication considerations around any change in advice on masks.

<p>16/4/2020 SAGE agreed that any additional advice on community face mask use is for the purposes of consideration as part of releasing social distancing measures and not relevant to the current situation.</p>	<p>Community face mask or covering use</p>	<p>SAGE</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-16-april-2020/sage-26-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-16-april-2020#nosocomial-infection</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890233/s0150-wearing-facemasks-community-setting-options-evidence-160420-sage26.pdf</p>	<p>SAGE will produce revised advice on masks in the week starting 20 April. Advice will then need to be integrated with other considerations, such as availability.</p>
<p>16/4/2020 The SAGE Nosocomial Working Group has identified marked variation among hospital trusts on implementation of infection prevention control (IPC) guidelines.</p>	<p>PPE use in hospitals</p>	<p>SAGE Nosocomial Working Group, Hospital trusts</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-16-april-2020/sage-26-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-16-april-2020#nosocomial-infection</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892034/S0140_Hospital_Onset_COVID-19_IPC_evidence_from_recent_survey_and_next_steps.pdf</p>	<p>The Nosocomial Working Group has identified marked variation among hospital trusts on implementation of infection prevention control (IPC) guidelines. IPC policy will be updated and circulated, as will guidelines on cleaning and on use of face masks.</p>
<p>17/04/2020 Online portal established for NHS boards to report PPE supply issues</p>	<p>PPE issues</p>	<p>Scottish government, NHS Health boards</p>	<p>https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf</p>	<p>Source: Audit Scotland</p>
<p>18/04/2020 NHS NSS distributes one week's supply of PPE to all care homes in Scotland</p>	<p>PPE distribution</p>	<p>NHS NSS</p>	<p>https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf</p>	<p>Source: Audit Scotland</p>

<p>18/04/2020 A charter flight from China carrying essential personal protective equipment (PPE) and NHS supplies has landed in Scotland</p>	<p>PPE provision</p>		<p>https://www.gov.scot/news/delivery-of-critical-nhs-supplies/</p>	
<p>Key decision 21/4/2020 SAGE advises that, on balance, there is enough evidence to support recommendation of community use of cloth face masks, for short periods in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible.</p>	<p>Community face masks or coverings use</p>	<p>SAGE, CMO</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-21-april-2020/sage-27-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-21-april-2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-b-the-use-of-facemasks-in-a-community-setting-20-april-2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delve-report-on-face-masks-for-the-general-public-21-april-2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/potential-impact-of-face-covering-on-the-transmissibility-of-sars-cov-2-in-the-uk-20-april-2020</p>	<p>Main conclusions: On balance, there is evidence to recommend the use of cloth masks in certain higher-risk settings as a precautionary measure where masks could be at least partially effective.</p> <p>SAGE secretariat to summarise SAGE advice today on public use of cloth face masks for CMO to submit to ministers alongside policy and operations advice.</p>
<p>Key decision 27/04/2020 Local PPE hubs established to supply social care providers with PPE where normal supply routes have failed.</p>	<p>PPE distribution</p>	<p>The hubs are run by local Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs).</p>	<p>Extending PPE access to all social care providers - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</p>	<p>Scottish Government announces that Local Hubs will distribute PPE supplies to the whole of the social care sector where normal supply routes have not been successful. These hubs will extend their provision to include all social care providers, and unpaid or family carers and personal assistants.</p>
<p>28/04/2020 Health and Sport Committee Session 5 on</p>	<p>PPE issues</p>	<p>Health and Sport Committee</p>	<p>https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12617&mode=pdf</p>	

COVID-19 where issues related to lack of PPE were discussed				
<p>Key decision 28/04/2020 The Scottish Government recommends people cover their faces while in some public places such as shops and on public transport.</p>	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-52457324	<p>First time Scottish government recommends the use of face coverings.</p> <p>“First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said there could be "some benefit" in wearing a cloth face covering in places where social distancing was difficult.”</p>
<p>Key milestone Late April 2020 In a survey of Scottish members carried out by the British Medical Association (BMA)</p>	PPE availability	BMA, NHS NSS, Scottish Government	<p>BMA Scotland COVID-19 Tracker Survey Results, BMA Scotland, May 2020.</p> <p>https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr_210117_nhs_overview.pdf</p> <p>https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-4294</p>	The survey reported that some doctors did not have access to correct and sufficient PPE. This was highlighted as the most concerning issue for 16 per cent of respondents. 16 Those working in high risk areas reported shortages of a number of items of PPE, including fullface visors (29 per cent) and long-sleeved disposable gowns (16 per cent).
<p>Key milestone April 2020 The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) surveyed its members in Scotland.</p>	PPE availability	RCN, NHS NSS, Scottish government	<p>RCN publishes results of member survey about PPE, RCN website, https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/ppe-survey-results-18-april-2020</p> <p>https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr_210117_nhs_overview.pdf</p> <p>https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-4294</p>	In April 2020 the RCN survey found that, of those respondents working in high-risk environments, 25 per cent had not had their mask fit tested and 47 per cent were asked to reuse single-use equipment.
<p>07/05/2020 Health and Sport Committee Session 5 on COVID-19 scrutiny where</p>	PPE issues	Health and Sport Committee	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12632&mode=pdf	

issues related to lack of PPE were discussed				
09/05/2020 Scottish Government announces more Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be manufactured in Scotland following the establishment of a new NHS Scotland supply chain.	PPE production	NHS Scotland, Trade Ministry, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service, Scottish-based companies (Forfar-based Don & Low for the base material required, Redwood TTM Ltd and Keela, who are based in Wigan and Glenrothes to make the sterile gowns, Keela will also work with manufacturers Transcal and Endura, both based in Livingston, to deliver these Scottish supplies.	Keela Redwood TTM Ltd Transcal Endura Increase in PPE production - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	
13/05/2020 Following the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport's evidence session regarding PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on 7 May 2020, the Convener issued a letter seeking further information and clarification on a number of points	PPE availability	Lewis Macdonald, Jeane Freeman	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/Inquiries/20200513_Ltr_OUT_to_CabSecH_S_re_PPE.pdf	
19/05/2020 SAGE endorsed the Environmental and Modelling Group papers on disinfection technologies and on risk	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE, Environmental and Modelling Group	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-37-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-19-may-2020/sage-37-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-19-may-2020	

mitigation on public transport (including face coverings).			https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904663/S0441_EMG_-_Evidence_for_transmission_of_SARS-COV-2_on_ground_public_transport.pdf	
26/05/2020 The Chief Nursing Officer issued a letter to all NHS boards clarifying that single-use PPE should not be re-used.	PPE use in health care settings	Chief Nursing Officer	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	
04/06/2020 SAGE endorsed the paper on mask wearing to reduce transmission in hospitals, and agreed that similar consideration should be given to care homes so that coordinated and consistent advice can be given.	PPE use in hospitals and care homes	SAGE Nosocomial group	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-40-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-4-june-2020/sage-40-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-4-june-2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895818/S0485_EMG_SARS-CoV-2_in_the_hospital_environment.pdf	
04/06/2020 Scottish Government publish a report on Personal Protective Equipment supplies.	PPE availability	Scottish government, Economic Development Directorate	https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-report-on-personal-protective-equipment-supplies-2/	
04/06/2020 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group discussed face coverings in enclosed public settings	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-4-june-2020/	

noting that this has been made mandatory in some other countries.				
11/06/2020 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group: Discussions on the use of face coverings in health and social care, and community settings continued.	Community face mask use and use of face masks in health and social care settings	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-11-june-2020/	
17/06/2020 Health and Sport Committee Session 5 on COVID-19 scrutiny, resilience and emergency planning, where issues related to lack of PPE were discussed	PPE issues	Health and Sport Committee	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12704&mode=pdf	
Key decision 22/06/2020 Face coverings become compulsory on public transport, with exemptions made for children under five and people with certain medical conditions	Community face mask use	Scottish government, Transport Secretary Michael Matheson	https://www.gov.scot/news/face-coverings-mandatory-on-public-transport-from-22-june/	
25/06/2020 The Convener issued a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport seeking further information following the evidence session on 17	PPE issues	Jeane Freeman, Lewis Macdonald	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200625_Ltr_OUT_CabSecHS.pdf https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200625_Ltr_OUT_CabSecHS.pdf	

<p>June on resilience, including on issues in relation to PPE</p> <p>And the Convener received a response to the above letter on 28/07/2020</p>			ral%20Documents/20200728 Ltr IN CabSecHS Resilience.pdf	
<p>July 2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on the extended use of face masks and face coverings in hospitals, primary care and wider community care is published</p>	PPE use in health and social care settings	Chief Nursing Officer Directorate, Health Protection Scotland, Scottish government	https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-interim-guidance-on-the-extended-use-of-face-masks-in-hospitals-and-care-homes/pages/new-additional-guidance---hospital-staff/	Updated on 18/09/2020, 23/09/2020, 2/10/2020, 20/10/2020, 9/11/2020, 7/06/2021, 23/06/2021, 5/07/2021, 8/10/2021, 3/12/2021
<p>Key decision 10/07/2020 Face coverings become compulsory in shops</p>	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-update-first-ministers-speech-10-july-2020/	
<p>16/07/2020 Coronavirus and Scotland: Interim report on intergovernmental working 2020 published where PPE issues are discussed</p>	PPE issues	Scottish Affairs Committee	https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2039/documents/19573/default/	What more could the UK and Scottish Government do to ensure that Scottish key workers have been able to gain access to personal protective equipment
<p>23/07/2020 SAGE endorsed the EMG paper on airborne transmission, noting its findings around the limitations of face shields/visors and on the</p>	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-48-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-july-2020/sage-48-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-july-2020	

importance of good ventilation.			https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nervtagemg-role-of-aerosol-transmission-in-COVID-19-22-july-2020/nervtag-and-emg-role-of-aerosol-transmission-in-COVID-19-22-july-2020	
28/07/2020 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group members briefly discussed wearing face coverings in schools	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-28-july-2020/ https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2020/11/COVID-19-advisory-group-evidence-papers-july-2020/documents/managing-COVID-19-in-australian-and-israel-schools-lessons-for-scotland-23-july-2020/managing-COVID-19-in-australian-and-israel-schools-lessons-for-scotland-23-july-2020/govscot%3Adocument/Managing%2BCOVID-19%2Bin%2BAustralian%2Band%2BIsrael%2BSchools-%2BLessons%2Bfor%2BScotland%2B%252823%2BJuly%2B2020%2529.pdf https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2020/11/COVID-19-advisory-group-evidence-papers-july-2020/documents/insights-from-u-s--on-re-opening-universities-and-higher-education-23-july-2020/insights-from-u-s--on-re-opening-universities-and-higher-education-23-july-	Group members briefly discussed Group members briefly discussed wearing face coverings in schools, noting their support for the advice from the subgroup on Education and Children’s issues which states that “Face coverings are not required for most children (those clinically advised to wear a covering would be an exception). Adults in schools do not need to wear face coverings as long as they can retain two metre distancing. Where adults cannot keep two metre distance, are interacting face-to-face and for about 15 minutes or more, face coverings should be worn.”

			2020/govscot%3Adocument/Insights%2Bfrom%2BU.S.%2Bon%2Bre-opening%2Buniversities%2Band%2BHigher%2BEducation%2B%252823%2BJuly%2B2020%2529.pdf	
<p>Key decision 08/08/2020</p> <p>The list of places where the wearing of face coverings is required extends to also include libraries, museums and places of worship (in addition to shops and public transport)</p>	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53697673	
<p>24/08/2020</p> <p>The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group received an update from the Chair of the Education & Children subgroup on face coverings in schools and on Higher and Further Education</p>	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	<p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-24-august-2020/</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening</p> <p>https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/333919</p>	The group received an update from the Chair of the Education & Children subgroup on face coverings in schools and on Higher and Further Education (HE/FE). The group had a discussion around the wearing of face coverings by secondary school pupils and agreed that face coverings were just one instrument of a risk minimisation strategy. The chair noted the range of views in relation to the wearing of face coverings in schools and the group agreed that the advice should be kept under review as the effects of reopening schools become clearer.
<p>Key decision 31/08/2020</p> <p>The Scottish Government announces that secondary school pupils will be required to wear face coverings in school</p>	Community face mask or covering use	Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	<p>https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/face-coverings-information-for-secondary-practitioners/</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53900825</p>	

corridors, communal areas and on school buses				
01/09/2020 Use of face coverings in certain settings for Opening Higher Education and Further Education settings in Autumn is recommended	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-54-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-1-september-2020/sage-54-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-1-september-2020	Face coverings will have greatest benefits where people are in close proximity or are in the same shared space for a period of time, especially where ventilation is poor or there is activity that could produce enhanced aerosols.
10/09/2020 Customers in pubs, restaurants and cafes will be required to wear face coverings when not eating.	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54093110	
17/09/2020 SAGE discusses use of face coverings for extended periods	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-57-record-of-meeting-on-COVID-19-17-september-2020/sage-57-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-17-september-2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923607/s0760-4a-duration-wearing-face-coverings-170920.pdf	Use of face coverings should be considered in situations where they may be required for longer periods, though tolerability and equity need to be considered. Levels of adherence to guidance around when and how to use face coverings are likely to be a more significant factor in effectiveness than the duration of wearing. SAGE secretariat to circulate paper 'Duration of wearing face coverings' to relevant departments, including DHSC, CO, BEIS, DfT, DfE, MHCLG, DCMS, HSE, PHE, and Devolved Administrations by 17 September 2020
13/10/2020 The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to the Convener on 13 October 2020 regarding Scottish Government's plans for a physical and digital exemption card for	Community face mask or covering use	Lewis Macdonald, Jeane Freeman	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/angiestest/20201013_Ltrr_IN_CABSE_C_to_Convener_r.e_Exemption_Cards.pdf	

people who are exempt under the regulations from wearing face coverings.				
19/10/2020 New rules are announced for face coverings, requiring them to be worn in workplace canteens from Monday 19 October, but they will no longer be required at wedding ceremonies	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54562795	
Key milestone 28/10/2020 Scottish Government publishes its PPE Action Plan	PPE planning	Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care	https://www.gov.scot/publications/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-covid-19-scotlands-action-plan/	Scotland's COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan will help ensure that the right PPE of the right quality gets to the people who need it at the right time. The Plan's scope includes health, social care and other workplaces and settings where COVID-19 could put people at risk.
30/10/2020 Senior pupils and their teachers are being advised by the Scottish Government to wear face coverings in classrooms, if they are in the new level three and four restriction areas	Community face mask or covering use	Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54748253	
16/11/2020 The Education sub-group considered the use of face coverings	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-16-november-2020/	
02/12/2020 The group noted that PPE, IPC measures, testing and	PPE use in care homes	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-	

guidance had much improved in care homes			advisory-group-minutes-3-december-2020/	
14/01/2021 SAGE endorsed the paper 'Application of physical distancing and fabric face coverings in mitigating the B117 variant SARS-CoV-2 virus in public, workplace and community'.	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-76-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-january-2021/sage-76-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-january-2021 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008199/S1029-EMG-face-coverings-distancing-13-jan.pdf	
19/01/2021 The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to the Convener on 19 January 2021 regarding the extension of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) support arrangements for primary care and social care providers.	PPE supply	Lewis Macdonald, Jeane Freeman	https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/Inquiries/20210119_Ltr_IN_from_CabSecHS_re_Extension_of_PPE_Hubs.pdf	
18/02/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group looked at mitigations and the need to be stricter in secondary schools on distancing and masks	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Education and Children sub-group	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-18-february-2021/	The Education and Children sub-group had looked at mitigations and the need to be stricter in secondary schools on distancing and masks, including issues of practicality in relation to access to masks.
18/02/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group	PPE use in health care settings	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-	On-going debate about PPE related to mask type being used for HCWs internationally

discussed the type of PPE that is needed in health care settings		COVID-19 Advisory Group Nosocomial sub-group	advisory-group-minutes-18-february-2021/	<p>CNRG had considered recent aerosol science publications and noted the need for clinical research in this area to further inform risk management.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a need for a study that repeats the non-inferiority trial work done for SARS re FRSM vs FFP3 masks and this was being developed by colleagues in Canada.</p>
<p>03/03/21 The Scottish Government advisory group recommends that all secondary pupils should wear face coverings when they return to the classroom later in the month.</p>	Community face mask or covering use	Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues	<p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues---phased-return-to-in-person-learning-in-schools-and-elc-settings--next-steps/</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-4-march-2021/</p>	
<p>11/03/2021 and 25/03/2021 SAGE discusses the use of masks in healthcare settings</p> <p>And 18/03/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Nosocomial sub-group</p>	PPE use in healthcare settings	SAGE, Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Nosocomial sub-group	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-83-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-11-march-2021/sage-83-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-11-march-2021#masks-in-healthcare-settings</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-84-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-25-march-2021/sage-84-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-25-march-2021#face-masks-in-healthcare-settings</p>	<p>Decisions on policies on mask usage for HCWs lie within the NHS. Given the limited available evidence, it is not known what impact greater use of FFP3 masks would have on overall levels of transmission in HCWs (though the limitations of the evidence should not be taken to show an absence of effect).</p> <p>UK IPC guidance and that issued by WHO both recommend that HCWs routinely wear face masks while COVID-19 is endemic, and that FFP3 and similar types of respirator masks are recommended for use where aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are in place for a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient.</p>

			https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/979441/S1169_Facemasks_for_health_care_workers.pdf https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-18-march-2021/	
06/04/2021 First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirms that all secondary school pupils will return full time to the classroom after the Easter holidays (19/04/2021). They will no longer need to follow social distancing rules, but must wear face coverings throughout the school	Community face mask or covering use	Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56649985	
22/04/2021 SAGE discusses the effectiveness of NPIs including face masks	PPE use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-87-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-april-2021/sage-87-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-april-2021 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-b-sustaining-behaviours-to-reduce-sars-cov-2-transmission-30-april-2021	
Key decision 23/06/2021	PPE use in care homes	Public Health Scotland, ARHAI Scotland	https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/COVID-19-information-and-guidance-for-care-home-	

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on the extended use of face masks and face coverings in care homes has been made into separate guidance.			settings-adults-and-older-people/COVID-19-information-and-guidance-for-care-home-settings-adults-and-older-people-version-27/	
30/06/2021 Provision of PPE to primary and social care due to come to an end	PPE provision	Scottish government	https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf	
22/07/2021 SAGE discusses the findings of human challenge studies	PPE use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-94-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-july-2020/sage-94-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-july-2021 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nervtag-extraordinary-nervtag-COVID-19-meeting-on-human-challenge-studies-9-july-2021	Nose shedding correlated better than throat shedding with detection of infectious virus on face masks, on surfaces and in the air. This suggests that nose shedding may be more important for transmission than throat shedding. This reinforces the importance of face coverings covering both the mouth and the nose. HOCl group consider whether it needs to review advice on the use of PPE in healthcare settings.
05/08/2021 The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care participated in the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group	Community face mask or covering use	The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-5-august-2021-2/	The group considered the role that NPIs are continuing to play domestically, alongside the pressures Scotland and other countries face. Leading issues include the use of masks, how long to require these for, who should use them, and what settings they should continue to be used in.
05/08/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group and Nosocomial sub-group discussed a paper about the use of FFP3 equipment in healthcare settings	PPE use in healthcare settings	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group and Nosocomial sub-group	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-5-august-2021-2/ Paper under discussion couldn't be found	Paper 1 – this considered whether wider use of FFP3 masks is warranted. The nosocomial infection risk is currently very low and the CNRG endorsed the current guidance. The subgroup also noted a systematic review on this topic by an Australian group of researchers and there has also been work on this area by the

				Norwegian Defence establishment. The group noted the concerns that some healthcare staff may have with regards to the level of PPE used, even when patients are deemed to be very low risk.
09/08/2021 Face masks can be removed for drinking, dancing and dining in a hospitality setting; Children under the age of 12 are no longer legally required to wear face coverings in public places.	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58114122 https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58118237	
17/8/2021 As schools in Scotland begin to return for the new academic year, Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville says that face coverings in classrooms will be scrapped "as soon as possible"	Community face mask or covering use	Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58228512	
09/09/2021 SAGE noted that European comparators with similar levels of vaccination have maintained more interventions (masks, vaccine certification, work from home) than the UK and are seeing their epidemics decline.	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-95-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-9-september-2021/sage-95-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-9-september-2021	
14/10/2021 SAGE received an update on monitoring of and	PPE use in healthcare settings	SAGE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021/sage-96-minutes-	SAGE received an update on monitoring of and measures to prevent nosocomial infection, including vaccination and testing of healthcare workers, and risk assessments

measures to prevent nosocomial infection			coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021	for both COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. SAGE noted the importance of consistent testing of healthcare workers across the NHS and care sector, and a continued focus on use of ventilation and facemasks. A renewed emphasis on measures to reduce infection spread in hospital is advised.
<p>14/10/2021 SAGE discussed the impact of potential Plan B mitigations considering the impact of the Delta variant and the behavioural response to reimposition of measures.</p>	Community face mask or covering use	SAGE	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027586/S1393_SPI-B_SPI-M_EMG_Considerations_for_potential_impact_of_Plan_B_measures_13_October_2021.pdf</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027840/S1394_SPI-B_Behavioural_considerations_for_maintaining_or_reintroducing_behavioural_interventions_and_introducing_new_measures_in_Autumn_2021.pdf</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036475/S1395_EMG-Nervtag_Update_on_Transmission_and_Environmental_and_Behavioural</p>	<p>There has been a decrease in self-reported precautionary behaviours such as wearing a face covering.</p> <p>Face coverings are expected to have some effect to reduce transmission through all routes by partially reducing emission of and exposure to aerosols and droplets carrying the virus, reducing transmission risk at both close proximity (even for short periods of time) and over longer range. Effectiveness is dependent on the quality of the covering, the fit and ensuring both the nose and mouth are covered. Mandating face coverings in some settings is likely to also have benefits for reducing transmission of other respiratory viruses.</p>

			Mitigation Strategies including in the context of Delta.pdf https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033268/Respiratory_Evidence_Panel_Evidence_Overview.pdf	
14/10/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Update on use of face masks in schools.	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-14-october-2021/	The group heard that there had been challenging discussions in last few meetings on appropriate reductions in mitigations such as face coverings at desks, restrictions on assemblies and parental engagement.
19/10/2021 The Scottish Government decides against lifting the requirement for face coverings to be worn in secondary schools, saying it will allow more time for 12–15-year-olds to be vaccinated.	Community face mask or covering use	Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58966726	
19/11/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Update on use of face masks in schools.	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues		On face coverings in schools – direct comparisons with England are difficult to make. There is good public health rationale for the use of mask wearing as a mitigation in these settings. The subgroup also takes into consideration the wider harms from this mitigation. The possible use of clear masks was raised, particularly for use in early learning settings. The Chair subgroup noted this and commented that this may be considered by the subgroup in future discussions.

<p>07/12/2021 SAGE suggests that well-fitting masks and distancing or reduced density of people in indoor environments may be even more important with the emergence of Omicron</p> <p>And 09/12/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group</p>	<p>Community face mask or covering use</p>	<p>SAGE; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-98-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-december-2021/sage-98-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-december-2021</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-9-december-2021/</p>	<p>Some international reports of ‘superspreading’ events (some of which include Omicron) also suggest a greater role for airborne transmission than has previously been the case, as it is less likely that Omicron could have spread to as many people as it has at those events by other routes (low confidence). This means that measures to reduce airborne spread such as ventilation, well-fitting masks and distancing or reduced density of people in indoor environments may be even more important.</p>
<p>16/12/2021 SAGE discusses response measures in the context of Omicron, including the use of face masks</p> <p>And 17/12/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group</p>	<p>Community face mask or covering use</p>	<p>SAGE; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-99-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-december-2021/sage-99-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-december-2021</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emg-and-spi-b-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-npis-in-the-context-of-omicron-15-december-2021/emg-and-spi-b-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-npis-in-the-context-of-omicron-15-december-2021</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-17-december-2021/</p>	<p>Mitigations for Omicron are similar to Delta, including use of well-fitting and well-made face coverings.</p> <p>If testing is not possible, physical distancing, wearing of face-coverings, and environmental interventions may need to increase further to compensate.</p> <p>Consistency of messaging will be important to ensure that people understand the importance of mitigations and are able to apply guidance (such as on use of face coverings or physical distancing) consistently in a range of environments.</p> <p>Cabinet Office C-19 Taskforce to outline the need for any further advice including on any specific packages of interventions.</p>
<p>28/01/2022 Adults are no longer required to wear face coverings if taking part in</p>	<p>Community face mask or covering use</p>	<p>Scottish government</p>	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60159431</p>	

organised activities with children under the age of five				
01/02/2022 First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told MSPs that a decision on whether older pupils would continue to have to wear face masks in schools would be considered again next week.	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-60217960	
10/02/2022 Secondary school pupils in Scotland will not need to wear face coverings in classrooms from 28 February.	Community face mask or covering use	Scottish government; Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60334763	

Relevant evidence syntheses

The Inquiry may want to review the following systematic or rapid reviews in relation **to use of PPE in health and social care settings**:

- 1) Chou R, Dana T, Jungbauer R. Masks for Prevention of Respiratory Virus Infections, Including SARS-CoV-2, in Health Care and Community Settings. *Ann Intern Med.* 2021 Sep;174(9):W68. doi: 10.7326/L21-0393
- 2) Verbeek JH, et al. Personal protective equipment for preventing highly infectious diseases due to exposure to contaminated body fluids in healthcare staff. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.*
- 3) Chou R, et al. Epidemiology of and Risk Factors for Coronavirus Infection in Health Care Workers. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, January 2022
- 4) Kumar D & Spry C. Face shields in pre-hospital settings: Clinical effectiveness and guidelines. Ottawa: Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH). 2020
- 5) Zorko DJ, Gertsman S, O'Hearn K, et al. DECONTAMINATION INTERVENTIONS FOR THE REUSE OF SURGICAL MASK PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW [published online ahead of print, 2020 Jul 9]. *J Hosp Infect.* 2020;S0195-6701(20)30337-6. doi:10.1016/j.jhin.2020.07.007
- 6) Jones P, Roberts S, Hotu C, Kamona S. What proportion of healthcare worker masks carry virus? A systematic review [published online ahead of print, 2020 Jun 24]. *Emerg Med Australas.* 2020;10.1111/1742-6723.13581. doi:10.1111/1742-6723.13581
- 7) Kim MS, Seong D, Li H, Chun SK, Park Y, Lee M, et al. Comparative efficacy of N95, surgical, medical, and non-medical facemasks in protection of respiratory virus infection: A living systematic review and network meta-analysis (preprint). *The Lancet.* 2021.

The Inquiry may want to review the following systematic or rapid reviews in relation **to community face mask use**:

- 1) Chou R, Dana T, Jungbauer R. Masks for Prevention of Respiratory Virus Infections, Including SARS-CoV-2, in Health Care and Community Settings. *Ann Intern Med.* 2021 Sep;174(9):W68. doi: 10.7326/L21-0393
- 2) Talic S et al. Effectiveness of public health measures in reducing the incidence of COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2 transmission, and COVID-19 mortality: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2021 Nov 17;375:e068302. doi: 10.1136/bmj-2021-068302.
- 3) MacIntyre CR & Chughtai AA. A rapid systematic review of the efficacy of face masks and respirators against coronaviruses and other respiratory transmissible viruses for the community, healthcare workers and sick patients. *Int J Nurs Stud.* 2020;108:103629.
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