

To: Matthew Taylor, CEO NHS Confederation

By email: matthew.taylor@nhsconfed.org

Cc: Ruth Rankine, Director of Primary Care NHS Confederation ruth.rankine@nhsconfed.org

10 January 2022

Dear Matthew,

Resources for your members on protection from seasonal respiratory illness including COVID-19

As the NHS and wider system are still in the grips of dealing with the usual winter pressures along with the significant impact of COVID-19, the challenges of ensuring the safety and resilience of the NHS and wider workforce along with patient safety are greater than ever.

As a coalition of partners, we have worked together to develop resources to support local risk assessments which would enable system leaders to meet these legal requirements. These are hosted on the [RCN website](#) and we writing to you to ask if you and colleagues could promote these as widely as possible. There is an opportunity to provide feedback and iterate these resources further.

There is evidence in the literature, in the form of genomics studies, that UK NHS workers have caught COVID-19 from their patients whilst wearing surgical masks provided to them by the NHS, and that this resulted in further staff and patient nosocomial infection (Francis et al 2021).

We are aware that the BMA wrote to all NHS CEOs in December 2021 to ask them to meet their legal responsibilities as laid out in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 for ensuring the safety of the healthcare workforce through the provision of appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

We have evidence that over 30 NHS Trusts across the UK are now leading the way in how they assess risk and provide staff with appropriate levels of RPE including FFP3.

We would be happy to work with you to develop resources that would be appropriate to your member's needs.

Please do let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Kevin Bampton, Chief Executive of the British Occupational Hygiene Society



Dr Christine Peters, Consultant Microbiologist FreshAirNHS



Dr Barry Jones, Chair of the Covid Airborne Protection Alliance (CAPA), which includes:

- ARTP - Association for Respiratory Technology & Physiology
- BAPEN – British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
- BASP – British Association of Stroke Physicians
- BDA – British Dietetic Association
- BSG - British Society of Gastroenterology
- CBS - Confederation of British Surgery
- College of Paramedics
- CSP – Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- FreshAir NHS
- GMB Union
- HCSA - Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association
- Medical Supply Drive UK
- NNNG - National Nurses Nutrition Group
- QNI - Queen’s Nursing Institute
- RCSLT – Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
- Unite the Union
- Doctors Association UK
- Trident HS&E