



25 February 2021

Dear xxxx,

Re: Invitation to join the Respiratory Evidence Panel to appraise evidence to inform PHE's recommendations to Government and stakeholders for the use of medical masks for the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in community, workplace and healthcare settings

As you know the understanding of exact transmission routes of SARS-CoV-2 is still developing and most evidence to support risk assessment is derived from healthcare settings. This clearly has implications for infection control measures, including in non-healthcare settings.

Public Health England (PHE) is convening an expert panel to critically assess the evidence behind the management of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, including assessing the role of aerosol generation, to inform PHE recommendations.

We would be delighted if you, as a recognised expert in the field, would be able to join this group. We understand the multitude of pressures on people's time at present, and intend that this will be a time-limited panel that will meet online 3 times:

- to discuss what evidence, both national and international, should be assessed including library searches
- to consider an interim review of available information to inform further analysis
- following this analysis to develop a consensus view on PPE recommendations

It is expected that the first 2 meetings will be no longer than 2 hours, with the final taking place over a half-day. The first will take place on Monday 1 March from 2.30 to 4.30pm.

A report of the group's recommendations will be reported to PHE's Face Coverings Group, to inform their guidance recommendations on respiratory transmission.

We are very happy to discuss this invitation further with you, and would be delighted if you would join.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Prof Gina Radford, Chair of the Consensus Panel



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Protecting and improving the nation's health

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As you know the understanding of exact transmission routes of SARS-CoV-2 is still developing, and most evidence to support risk assessment is derived from healthcare settings. This clearly has implications for infection control measures, including in non-healthcare settings.

Public Health England (PHE) is convening an expert panel to critically assess the evidence behind the management of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, including assessing the role of aerosol generation, to inform PHE recommendations.

We would be delighted if you could nominate an individual from the xxxx to join this group, not as a society representative but as an individual who is a recognised expert in the field. We understand the multitude of pressures on people's time at present, and intend that this time-limited panel will meet online 3 times:

- to discuss what evidence, both national and international, should be assessed including library searches
- to consider an interim review of available information to inform further analysis
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A report of the group's recommendations will be reported to PHE's Face Coverings Group, to inform their guidance recommendations on respiratory transmission.

We are very happy to discuss this invitation further with you, and would be delighted if you would nominate a colleague or member to join this panel.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Prof Gina Radford, Chair of the Consensus Panel