

Freedom of Information Request

Date of receipt: 2nd January 2023

Date of response: 2nd February 2023

Freedom of Information request regarding Facemasks and Covid-19 Webpage

Request

I would like to make a request for -

Face masks

The current evidence that face masks are safe and effective against Covid-19 (including references to scientific studies) that Public Health/Dr Brink is basing their current facemask policy for the Princess Elizabeth Hospital campus on.

Covid-19 website

The following original slide files from the covid-19 media briefings - these are missing from this section of your website, <https://covid19.gov.gg/news/media-briefings>. Please upload to the website and provide the weblinks to each file in the response:

- a. COVID-19 Media briefing - Wednesday 9 February 2022
- b. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 25 January 2022
- c. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 14 December 2021
- d. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 28 May 2021
- e. COVID-19 Media briefing - Monday 1 March 2021
- f. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 26 January 2021
- g. COVID-19 Media briefing - Sunday 24 January 2021
- h. COVID-19 Media briefing - Saturday 23 January 2021
- i. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 22 January 2021
- j. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 11 December 2020
- k. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 27 November 2020
- l. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 28 August 2020
- m. COVID-19 Media briefing - Wednesday 5 August 2020
- n. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 24 July 2020
- o. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 10 July 2020
- p. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 23 June 2020

- q. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 19 June 2020
- r. COVID-19 Media briefing - Thursday 11 June 2020
- s. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 5 June 2020
- t. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 29 May 2020
- u. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 22 May 2020
- v. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 15 May 2020
- w. COVID-19 Media briefing - Thursday 7 May 2020
- x. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 5 May 2020
- y. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 1 May 2020
- z. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 28 April 2020
- aa. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 24 April 2020
- bb. COVID-19 Media briefing - Wednesday 22 April 2020
- cc. COVID-19 Media briefing - Monday 20 April 2020
- dd. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 17 April 2020
- ee. COVID-19 Media briefing - Wednesday 15 April 2020
- ff. COVID-19 Media briefing - Thursday 9 April 2020
- gg. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 7 April 2020
- hh. COVID-19 Media briefing - Friday 3 April 2020
- ii. COVID-19 Media briefing - Wednesday 1 April 2020
- jj. COVID-19 Media briefing - Monday 30 March 2020
- kk. COVID-19 Media briefing - Tuesday 24 March 2020

Response provided by the Committee *for* Health & Social Care:

Face masks

Health and Social Care (HSC) bases its operational policies in respect to the wearing of facemasks on NHS guidelines and information from Public Health colleagues in the Bailiwick. Facemasks have been worn at the acute hospital and across other health and care settings in the Bailiwick routinely, including prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic and during winter pressures to help reduce the spread of infection and to support business continuity.

During outbreaks of Covid-19 at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital and in community health and care settings a number of services may revert to the wearing of face masks for all staff and visitors as part of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), including vaccination and handwashing etc. It is important to note that this can be across HSC services and other partner health and care providers.

To support risk assessment and decision making there is a multi-disciplinary operational network made up of senior colleagues across HSC, Medical Specialist Group and external providers such as Primary Care and St John Ambulance and Rescue. The network considers data and information from Public Health on the current trends in Covid-19 cases and other respiratory virus infections in the Bailiwick. HSC has its own internal triggers, to initiate mask wearing in the hospital and these are reviewed regularly. This multi-agency group assess the risk to service disruption and are responsible for determining if face masks should be used across its areas of service provision. Equally other key partners from the operational network will make risk based decisions for their

own areas of practice. It is important to note that mask wearing is stepped up and stepped down as appropriate to protect critical services.

Response provided by the Policy & Resources Committee:

Covid-19 website

Where slides were used in briefings, and not already included separately on the webpage, these have now been added under 'Media Briefing Slides', with the exception of a small number where the original slides are no longer available internally. However, in these cases the slides can be viewed in the briefing videos.