

Annex

Extended Use of Face Mask and Face Covering Guidance in Hospitals, Primary Care and Wider Community Healthcare

In the development of policy and guidance, the Scottish Government will often commission external bodies to review evidence and offer advice based on their review. The Scottish Government commissioned Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland (the National centre of expertise for infection prevention control and antimicrobial resistance) to offer this advice in the development and ongoing review of the Extended Use of Face Mask and Face Covering Guidance in Hospitals, Primary Care and Wider Community Healthcare. More information about ARHAI Scotland can be found here:

[Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland | National Services Scotland \(nhs.scot\)](#)

Evidence and advice relating to the use of face masks and face coverings in healthcare settings has also been considered by the COVID-19 Nosocomial Review Group (CNRG), who are a time limited expert group set up specifically to consider scientific and technical concepts and processes that are key to understanding the evolving COVID-19 situation and potential impacts in hospitals in Scotland. Further information about the CNRG can be found here: [COVID-19 Nosocomial Review Group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Evidence on the effectiveness of face masks has been considered by both ARHAI and CNRG. Both have offered evidence based advice to Scottish Government on the use of face masks and face coverings in healthcare settings.