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Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office: COVID-19 Winter Plan

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan>

The UK Government's COVID-19 Winter Plan presents a programme for suppressing the virus, protecting the NHS and the vulnerable, keeping education and the economy going and providing a route back to normality. The plan sets out the Government's approach to ending the national restrictions on 2 December.



NHS Employers

NHS Employers: Fast track DBS guidance for vaccinators

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/news/2020/11/fast-track-dbs-guidance-for-vaccinators>

- NHS Employers has updated the COVID-19 pre-employment check guidelines to outline where employers may seek free and fast track service DBS checks.
- Those administering the COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for this type of check, but there are a number of factors that must be considered before deciding on whether a fast track service check is needed.
- Employers should read our section on temporary arrangements for criminal record checks when deciding whether roles are eligible for DBS checks



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care: Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing: privacy information (Updated 24th November)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-privacy-information>

Updated '*Testing for coronavirus: privacy information – quick read*' and '*Testing for coronavirus: privacy information*' to clarify how data may be used to participate in health research if you live in England and Wales.

Department of Health and Social Care: Policy paper - Staying mentally well: winter plan 2020 to 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-mentally-well-winter-plan-2020-to-2021>

The government's plans to support people's wellbeing and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic this winter.



UCL Partners: COVID-19 wave 1- Reflections and learning from practice across a sample of UK intensive care units

https://s31836.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/COVID_19_wave1_knowledge_share_V2_.pdf

UCL Partners supported the Intensive Care Society (ICS) with a facilitated discussion between clinicians from nice intensive care units across the UK with a range of experience from the COVID-19 first wave. This summary report shares the key findings from this discussion.

Clinical and Applied Thrombosis/Hemostasis: The Use of Therapeutic-Dose Anticoagulation and Its Effect on Mortality in Patients With COVID-19: A Systematic Review

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1076029620960797>

Although it is too soon to draw any conclusions, this systematic review draws attention to current evidence regarding the association between therapeutic-dose anticoagulation and its effect on mortality in patients with COVID-19.



Cochrane Library: Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006207.pub5/full>

The high risk of bias in the trials, variation in outcome measurement, and relatively low compliance with the interventions during the studies hamper drawing firm conclusions and generalising the findings to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

There is uncertainty about the effects of face masks. The low-moderate certainty of the evidence means our confidence in the effect estimate is limited, and that the true effect may be different from the observed estimate of the effect. The pooled results of randomised trials did not show a clear reduction in respiratory viral infection with the use of medical/surgical masks during seasonal influenza. There were no clear differences between the use of medical/surgical masks compared with N95/P2 respirators in healthcare workers when used in routine care to reduce respiratory viral infection. Hand hygiene is likely to modestly reduce the burden of respiratory illness. Harms associated with physical interventions were under-investigated.

There is a need for large, well-designed randomised controlled trials (RCTs) addressing the effectiveness of many of these interventions in multiple settings and populations, especially in those most at risk of acute respiratory infections (ARIs).



Public Health
England

Public Health England: Guidance - COVID-19: mitigation of risks in occupational settings with a focus on ethnic minority groups

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-mitigation-of-risks-in-occupational-settings-with-a-focus-on-ethnic-minority-groups>

Consensus statement from Public Health England, the Health and Safety Executive and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine.

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