Department of Health & Social Care

From the Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Our ref:

18 November 2026

Dear Ms Wong,

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 October the Chief Medical Officer about infection prevention and control. I have been asked to reply.

I appreciate your concerns.

The Department recognises the importance of clear, evidence-based infection prevention and control guidance. The detailed technical content of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manuals is developed and maintained by the relevant expert organisations across the four nations, drawing on the available scientific evidence, relevant standards and manufacturers' instructions.

Decisions on the precise wording of the manuals, including the circumstances in which different types of respiratory protective equipment may be appropriate, are therefore matters for the organisations responsible for developing and maintaining that guidance.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Correspondence Officer
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries
Department of Health and Social Care