

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: NSS ARHAIinfectioncontrol
Subject: RE: JN.01 query
Date: 22 December 2023 12:14:00
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Morning [REDACTED],
We are not changing any of our IPC advice at this stage. Also worth noting is a follow up publication by WHO yesterday which targets advice more at time of high COVID/ service pressure rather than universally. We will be considering this as part of our routine evidence updates but in the meantime there are no IPC changes.

[WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC-guideline-summary-2023.4-eng.pdf](#)

Hope that helps and you have a lovely Christmas when it comes.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

ARHAI Scotland
NHS Scotland Assure
NHS National Services Scotland

Tel: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@nhs.scot | [REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 12:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]@phs.scot>; [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Cc: NSS ARHAIinfectioncontrol [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Subject: RE: JN.01 query

Hi [REDACTED]

I am copying [REDACTED] in to this email trail as she had a meeting with our NSS Nurse Director and SG colleagues this morning so is apprised with latest update.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@pfs.scot>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 12:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
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Subject: FW: JN.01 query

Dear [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Inf Control colleagues

I hope these lines find you well.

I wonder if you could help us get a better picture on potential changes (if any) in recommendations for hc settings, following the WHO announcement on JN.1 as a VOI.

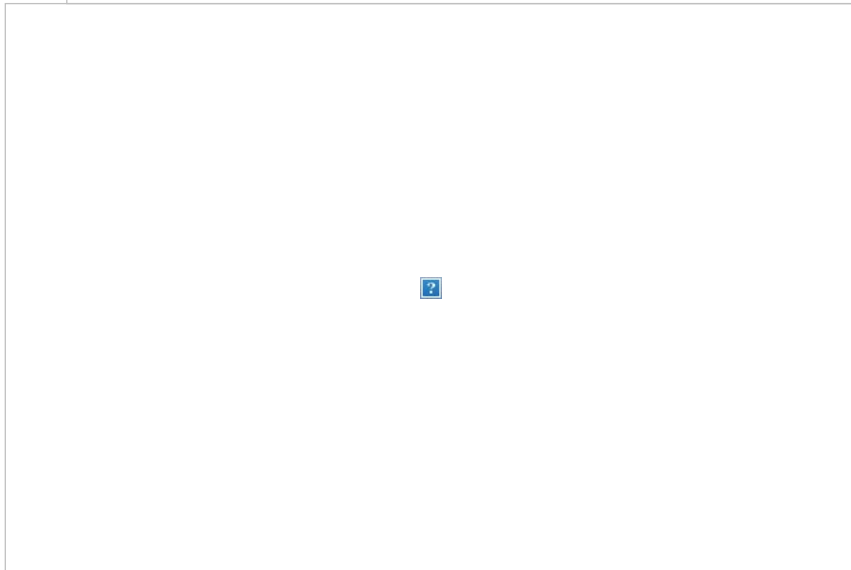
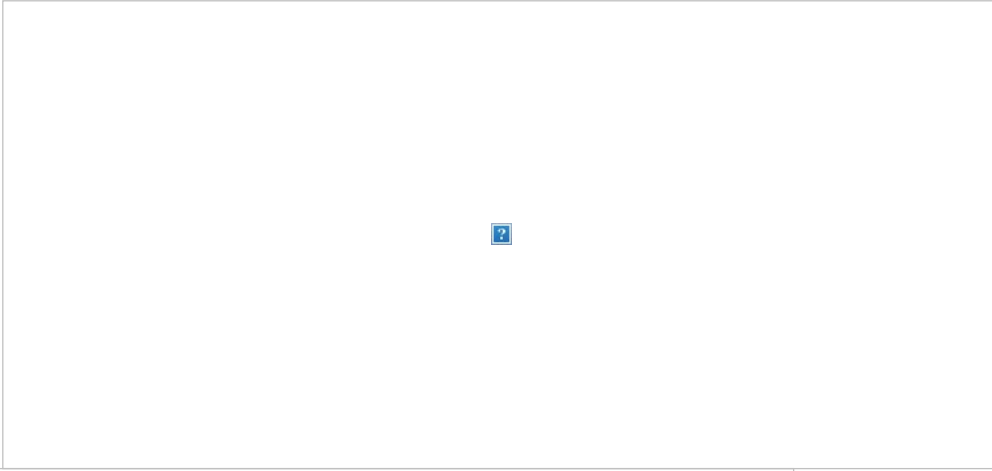
Please note your advice will help us to provide a response to the enquiry from SG this morning, as below.

Please see attached WHO G – for ease. My understanding is that the WHO most-up-to-date **Infection prevention and control guideline (attached) for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Executive summary, 21 December 2023** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC-guideline-summary-2023.4> does not seem to recommend any actions beyond the understanding that the current epi indicates low risk, in line with longer-term, sustained prevention, control and management practices. WHO recommendations have not changed from earlier versions of their IPC guidance, indicating the following:

- **Health-care facilities remain high-risk settings** for SARS-CoV-2 transmission **because they are locations where patients at risk of severe COVID-19 are admitted and cared for.**
- Maintaining and improving IPC measures **remain critical** to ensuring the well-being of patients, staff and visitors.
- The **updated recommendations consider the current context** of COVID-19, including the 2023-2025 COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (1,2), which assists countries as they are working to **transition their critical emergency response activities to longer-term, sustained COVID-19 disease prevention, control and management practices.**
- As the pandemic is in its fourth year, **COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue, and is no longer considered a public health**

emergency of international concern. At the time of writing this version of the guideline, although weekly reported cases and deaths are at lower levels, millions continue to be infected or re-infected with SARS-CoV-2 and thousands of people are dying each week (1). However, surveillance has declined dramatically and case reports do not accurately represent infection rates due to the reduction in testing and reporting globally (1). COVID-19 transmission remains varied, with evidence suggesting a **reduced risk to human health** driven mainly by the following factors: high population-level immunity from infection, vaccination and/or hybrid immunity; variants with consistently lower virulence; increased availability of countermeasures; and improved clinical care.

- The two references in **recommendations (4 and 5**, see below) re the continuous use of medical mask in HC facilities are made in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on the health system – clearly attached to **very low level of evidence**.



However, I would appreciate your advice at this stage. Thanks

Hope you have a lovely Christmas!

Kind regards

■

From: ■ [@phs.scot](mailto:■@phs.scot)>
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Subject: FW: JN.01 query

I don't know anything about changes in practice/guidance and it would be for ARHAI to advise.

■, do you?

■, can you please ask ARHAI colleagues if they are aware of any changes in healthcare settings? And what WHO is saying?

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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To: [Redacted]@p^hs.scot>; [Redacted]@p^hs.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@p^hs.scot>

Cc: [Redacted]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: JN.01 query

Good morning

Colleagues have contacted us internally about the new COVID-19 variant JN.01, highlighting that on 19 Dec WHO announced JN.1 as a VOI and as a result have advised health workers and health facilities to:

- Implement universal masking in health facilities, as well as appropriate masking, respirators and other PPE for health workers caring for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Improve ventilation in health facilities.

Grateful for any comments on the PHS position on this variant and if there has been any consideration around standing up a VAM IMT?

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] - Population Health Resilience and Protection Division | Directorate for Population Health | The Scottish Government | 6th Floor, Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU [Redacted]

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