

NERVTAG Sub-committee on the pandemic influenza facemask and respirator stockpile: Formal Recommendations to the Department of Health and DH response

1. The subcommittee recommends that the Department of Health commission an update to the 2009 Pandemic Flu infection control guidance to take into account the latest available evidence.

DH response - This work is not considered a priority at this time and will be deferred for consideration at a future time.

2. In the meantime, the subcommittee recommends that the composition of the PPE stockpile should be re-considered in the light of suggested changes as detailed above

DH response – This work is being prioritised and will be progressed with PHE in 2016/17

3. In offering an expert view to the Department of Health on the issue raised, the subcommittee advised that the recommendations are offered in the absence of an updated Pandemic Flu infection control guidance and recommends that its advice should be reviewed once an update is completed.

DH response – Noted.

4. The subcommittee recommends a piece of time-and-motion operational research to better understand staff, movements, break periods and likely respirator usage rate on ICU.

DH response – PHE intend to commission NHS England to carry out a study to deal with the operational demands in a typical ICU in an influenza pandemic, subject to DH approval that the existing programme budget can be used to fund this work.

DH Pandemic Influenza Policy team

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response

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