

Open Letter from the UK Medical Freedom Alliance to:

- **Humza Yousaf MSP** - Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
- **Dr Gregor Smith** - Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

URGENT Call to withdraw Face Mask Requirements in Scottish Healthcare Facilities

The UK Medical Freedom Alliance are an alliance of medical professionals, scientists and lawyers who are campaigning for Informed Consent, Medical Freedom and Bodily Autonomy to be protected and preserved.

Legal requirements for face masks have been lifted throughout the UK. With the removal of all COVID-19 related restrictions in Wales on 30 May 2022, the wearing of face masks is no longer required within their health and social care servicesⁱ. All trusts and CCGs in NHS England received a notice from the National Medical Director dated 1 June 2022 advising that universal masking of health and care staff, patients and visitors is no longer requiredⁱⁱ.

We call upon the Scottish Government to urgently align their policies with the rest of the UK and make face masks optional for all staff, patients and visitors, with immediate effect.

We refer to our enclosed Open Letterⁱⁱⁱ sent to all NHS Chief Executives dated 2 May 2022, in which we called for the exit strategy for face mask requirements in healthcare facilities, highlighting the available scientific and experiential evidence showing lack of benefit and risks of adverse effects.

We now further support this evidence with data outlining why there is no reason Scotland would need to adopt a different policy to England and Wales.

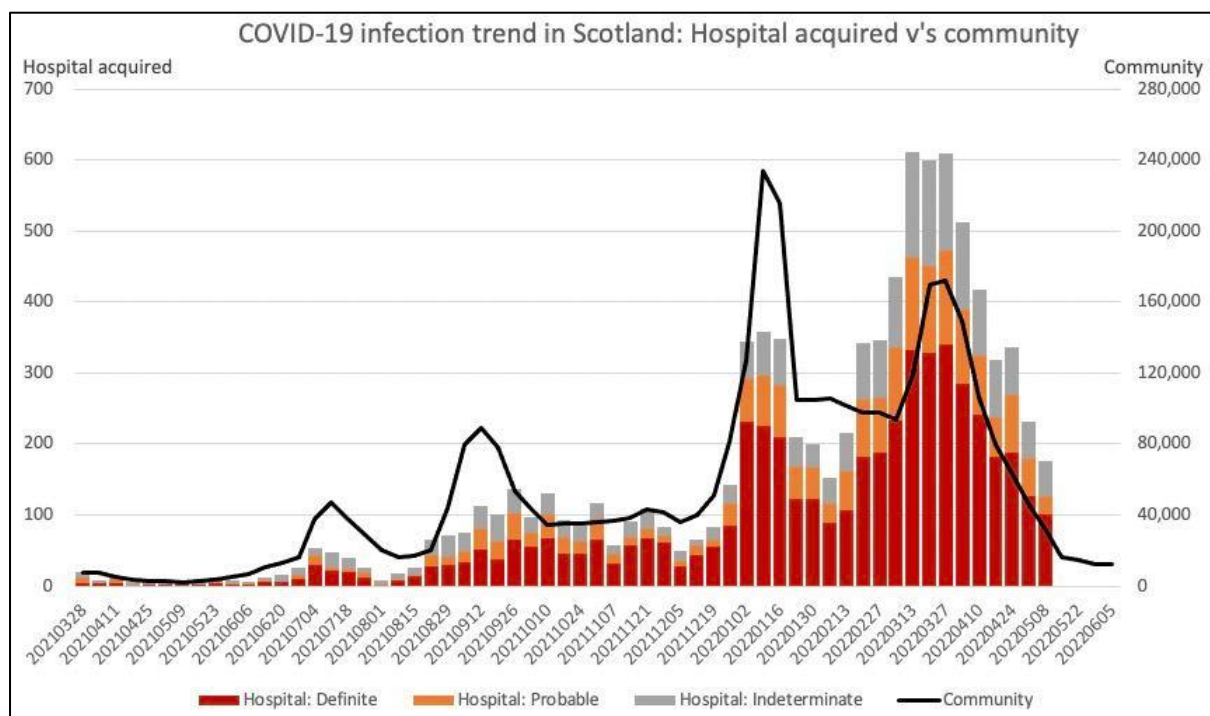


Fig 1 Cases of hospital-acquired COVID-19^{iv} (by probability) vs community cases^v – PHS data

Figure 1 shows data from Public Health Scotland (PHS) of COVID-19 cases acquired in hospital versus community cases. Overall numbers are very low, and the pattern of hospital-acquired infections follow those seen in the community, even after mask mandates were lifted in the community. These data suggest that the **risk of transmission in hospital is no higher than in the community**. This is consistent with data from the UK COVID-19 Infection Survey showing that contact with hospitals is not associated with an increased risk of infection, and there even appeared to be a statistically significant negative correlation (Fig 2)^{vi}.

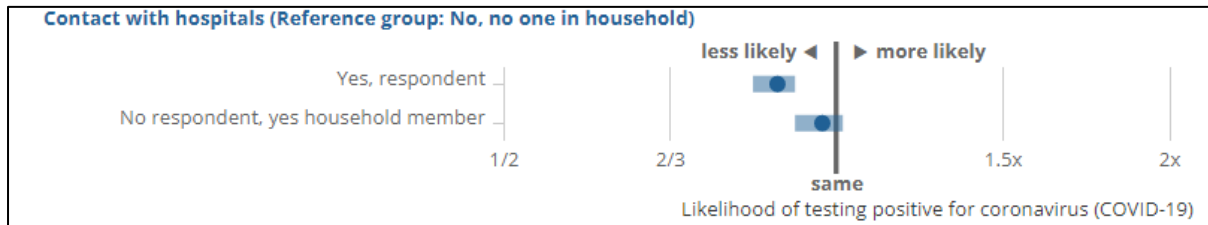


Fig 2 From Figure 2 of the UK COVID-19 Infection Survey 13 April 2022

Figure 3 shows that despite lifting mask mandates much sooner than Scotland, England has not seen a detrimental effect on their case numbers. On the contrary, case rates in England appear to have remained more controlled. This is consistent with data from a European study which found either neutral or positive correlation coefficients between mask usage and COVID-19 outcomes suggesting that the **universal use of masks may have harmful unintended consequences**^{vii}.

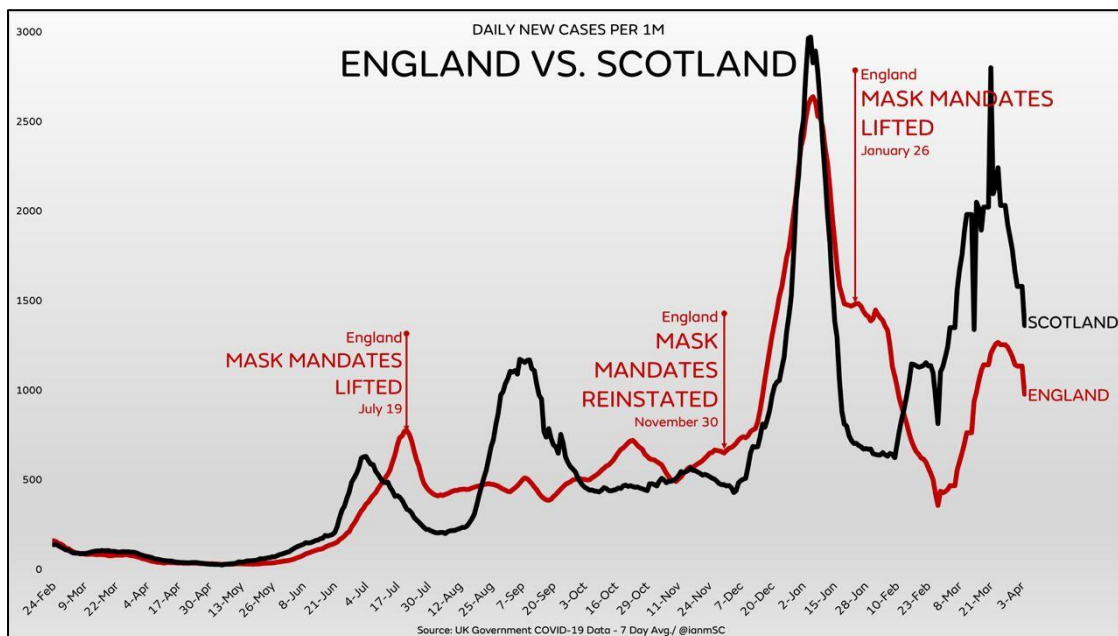


Fig 3 COVID-19 Case rates in England vs Scotland^{viii}

Considering this data, there is **no credible plausibility for continuing the policy of mask wearing in the healthcare setting in Scotland only**.

We therefore request that this policy is revised with immediate effect.

Thank for you reading this letter and considering its content.

UK Medical Freedom Alliance

<https://www.ukmedfreedom.org>

Cc: Prof Jason Leitch – National Clinical Director
All Scottish Medical Directors & NHS Chief Executives

ⁱ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-61594861>

ⁱⁱ https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/C1657-next-steps-on-infection-prevention-and-control-letter_010622.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.ukmedfreedom.org/open-letters/ukmfa-open-letter-to-nhs-trust-health-board-ceos-re-face-mask-requirements-in-healthcare-facilities>

^{iv} <https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland/resource/5acbcb1-e9d6-4ab2-a7ac-f3e4d378e7ec>

^v <https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/covid-19-in-scotland/resource/9393bd66-5012-4f01-9bc5-e7a10accacf4>

^{vi} <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveycharacteristicsofpeopletestingpositiveforcovid19uk/13april2022>

^{vii} <https://www.cureus.com/articles/93826-correlation-between-mask-compliance-and-covid-19-outcomes-in-europe>

^{viii} <https://ianmsc.substack.com/archive?sort=new>