

CVDR/S6/21/10/1

COVID-19 Recovery Committee

**10th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Thursday
11 November 2021**

Baseline health protection measures: preparing for winter and pathways to recovery

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 28 October 2021, the Committee agreed to undertake a short inquiry into baseline health protection measures: preparing for winter and pathways to recovery.
2. The inquiry will focus on three broad policy areas:
 - health and social care services;
 - the hospitality, business and leisure sectors; and
 - schools.
3. At this meeting, the Committee will focus on health and social care services and will take evidence from the following—
 - Donald Morrison, Member of the Scottish Dental Practice Committee, British Dental Association Scotland
 - Dr Andrew Buist, Chair, British Medical Association GP Committee
 - Dr Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive, Scottish Care

Background

4. The Scottish Government's [Strategic Framework](#) explains how it plans to respond to COVID-19 and what it seeks to achieve. This explains that the Scottish Government's overall aim is:

“To suppress the virus to a level consistent with alleviating its harms while we recover and rebuild for a better future”.

5. The Scottish Government hopes to achieve this aim using measures such as ventilation, face coverings, vaccination and social distancing etc. These are what are known as “baseline health protection measures”.

6. This inquiry will consider what role baseline health protection measures, in particular ventilation, will play in lessening the impact of COVID-19 over the winter period. It will also investigate what measures are required to support long-term recovery.

7. With regard to ventilation measures, alongside the Strategic Framework, the Scottish Government has published general guidance for [improving ventilation](#) in workplace/commercial settings. The Scottish Government has also committed funding to supporting improved ventilation in some settings, such as [schools](#) and [high-risk settings](#).

8. In this evidence session, the Committee will also consider other baseline health protection measures that are relevant to the health and social care sectors, such as face coverings (including PPE), social distancing and vaccination etc.

Evidence

9. At its meeting on 4 November 2021, the Committee heard from experts in ventilation. The papers and transcript from that meeting can be found on the Committee’s [website](#).

Next steps

10. The Committee will take further evidence on this inquiry at its meetings in November 2021.

**Committee Clerks
November 2021**