Dear ENT UK member,

I am pleased to announce that Public Health England has agreed and confirmed in writing to me the following recommendations: upper-airway procedures such as nasal endoscopy, laryngoscopy and other interventions in our specialty are to be considered Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs), requiring full prescribed PPE, including an FFP3 respirator. They have also agreed that we are seeing widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the community, and therefore advise that appropriate PPE should be used in relation to AGPs undertaken in ANY patient. Clinicians should plan to group patients requiring these procedures, all of whom should be assumed infected, to avoid changing respirators between patients and thereby preserve stock. In the absence of an FFP3 respirator, the Health and Safety Executive has confirmed that an FFP2 or N95 equivalent respirator would offer adequate levels of protection. However, it is important to note that FFP3 is officially the prescribed rating. Their official letter and guidance are expected shortly, but please be safe and take care of yourselves in the above manner. A useful document on the safe decontamination of endoscopes is linked below, and will be on our website shortly.

I have also attached a Tonsillitis and Quinsy emergency management guideline that colleagues may find useful, and which may help to minimise admissions during the pandemic.

PPE survey reminder
Earlier this week we called on our members around the country to share with us their experiences of PPE availability. It is important that we have as large a response as possible, to get the clearest picture we can, of what ENT health
professionals are experiencing ‘on the ground’, in order to work towards improving the situation.

The deadline to complete the survey is midnight on Sunday 29 March. If you have not done so already, please spare a few minutes to take this important survey and share this vital information with us.

Kind regards,

Professor Nirmal Kumar,
President of ENT UK

New guidance today

- [COVID-19 adult tonsillitis and quinsy guideline](#): ENT UK has developed a useful guideline for the treatment of tonsillitis and quinsy during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [PPE for nasal endoscope decontamination during the COVID-19 pandemic](#): we have repackaged our nasal endoscope advice from yesterday’s mini-roundup as an easily accessible guideline document.