

## Media Release

**Date: 16 November 2021**

### Civil Contingencies Authority to continue strongly recommending face coverings in certain settings

---

The Civil Contingencies Authority has agreed today that the use of face coverings should not be made mandatory but should continue to be strongly recommended in certain settings including:

- Where physical distancing is not possible
- Where there is poor ventilation
- Where there are close crowds, or where individuals need to work in very close proximity with colleagues, service users or customers

The CCA discussed in detail if it should make the use of face coverings mandatory but voted against this. The decision not to make their use mandatory was in line with a range of evidence and advice from officers in different service areas including public health and other medical experts. A crucial factor in the decision was the increase in use of face coverings seen across the community in the past few days, with several of the large retailers reporting around 80% of Islanders are using them.

The CCA was very encouraged to see far more people wearing face coverings, and members expressed their appreciation to the whole community for taking responsibility not just for their own health but for the health of others. The use of face coverings - alongside regular Lateral Flow testing, staying at home when unwell and PCR testing those with symptoms – helps to avoid transmitting the virus without causing too much disruption in the day to day lives of Islanders.

The CCA will continue to monitor the use of face coverings over the coming weeks, as it monitors the number of positive cases and importantly, the pressures on the hospital which currently are continuing to cope well.

The CCA also continues to monitor the impact of cases on various services. As those who test positive are required to isolate for at least 10 days, the rising number of cases does present a concern for various workforces both in the public and private sector. While many

of these individuals will experience only a mild illness or even no symptoms at all, the nature of their job may mean they are not able to work from home.

A live COVID-19 briefing will be broadcast tomorrow (Wednesday 17 November) at 1pm.