

Q&A TAKE-AWAY

8TH OCTOBER 2021



WHAT CAN WE DO TO PROMOTE “HANDS-FACE-SPACE” LOCALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MESSAGING OR ROLE MODELLING?

This is a challenge for all of us, but we can work with local councillors and leaders to model the right behaviours in the city. And remember, there are various precautions we can all take to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Masks are one tool in the toolbox, and it doesn't have to be all or nothing. As champions, we need to take the opportunity to understand and acknowledge people's barriers and to talk through possible solutions.



HAND GELS IN SHOPS ARE OFTEN EMPTY AND CHAMPIONS WHO TRAVEL ON BUSES HAVE FED BACK THAT THE WINDOWS ARE OFTEN CLOSED WHEN THEY GET ON – CAN PUBLIC HEALTH DO SPOT CHECKS ON THIS TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO DO BETTER?

Yes, we'll take that as an action to raise with colleagues to do more spot checks and challenge this.



WE HEAR FROM PEOPLE THAT LATERAL FLOW TESTS CAN GIVE FALSE / INACCURATE RESULTS SO WHAT IS THE POINT IN TESTING WITH THEM?

Lateral flow tests (LFT) are very good at picking up the infection when someone has a lot of it (a large viral load) and when someone is infected but has no symptoms. It's really good to advise people to use LFT several times a week and to treat a negative result like an amber light – proceed with caution!

It's important to do the test correctly, following the instructions, and making sure the environment is clean. Always check the results in the right timescale (usually 30 minutes) – tests left too long can then give inaccurate readings leading to people thinking they have had a “false positive” response.

KEY TAKE AWAY

Understanding people's concerns is key and therefore, your conversations and your relationships with your communities are crucial!