



Date:

The Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister,

(i) Extend mandatory mask-wearing and (ii) end fuel poverty.

I am writing as a concerned member of the City and Hackney Older People's Reference Group to ask you **(i) to extend mandatory mask-wearing to all indoor venues including hospitality, and outdoors** where physical distancing is not possible; also **(ii) to take the measures necessary to end fuel poverty.**

I welcome the decision by the government to reintroduce mandatory mask-wearing on public transport, in shops and in some other public places since it is a major line of defence against Covid particularly for the older and vulnerable members of our communities. However, I believe that the failure to enforce it in all indoor spaces where people socialise, is putting our lives at risk. There is clear, unqualified, scientific advice to maintain mask-wearing as a required part of our Covid-19 strategy : not to follow it comprehensively is irresponsible.

I am also deeply concerned about the impact of fuel poverty on older and vulnerable residents on low incomes. It is a human right that we should be able to heat our homes to the recommended, safe temperature, keep them well-lit and cook food. The projected unprecedented rise in energy prices threatens to double gas and electricity costs this winter and beyond, making adequate heating and lighting unaffordable for those on low incomes, with potentially devastating consequences for their health, well-being, and safety - and for Social care and the NHS. We urge the government to bring in a comprehensive support scheme to eliminate fuel poverty able to ensure that **no needy person risks perishing from hypothermia or a fall in the dark at home this winter..**

Yours sincerely,

City and Hackney OPRG member