

**Updated RCUK Statement on PHE PPE Guidance:
28 April 2020**

RCUK recognises the statements made by Public Health England (PHE) on 24 and 27 April on the issue of NERVTAG's consideration of chest compressions as potential AGPs and the associated guidance to NHS Trusts. NERVTAG's appraisal focuses purely on the theoretical science of AGPs, without appropriate consideration of the clinical realities of conducting repeated chest compressions as part of a resuscitation attempt.

RCUK's principal focus throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has been to balance the potential for positive outcomes for patients with safety for Health Care Professionals (HCPs). RCUK guidance is in accordance with international best practice issued by organisations such as WHO, ILCOR, European CDC and ERC. In the absence of high-quality evidence to state that anything less than AGP PPE is sufficient for healthcare professional safety, Resuscitation Council UK maintains its belief that AGP PPE provides the safest level of protection when administering chest compressions, CPR, and advanced airway procedures in known or suspected COVID-19 patients. For this reason, we welcome the fact that PHE's guidance of 24 April now aligns with that of RCUK, inasmuch as it allows Trusts to opt for AGP levels of PPE if they consider this appropriate to best ensure HCP safety.

We recommend that Trusts adopt this approach, thereby seeking to ensure appropriate protection for their staff. We would also urge HCPs engaged in resuscitation in Covid-19 circumstances to highlight this aspect of the amended PHE guidance to their Trusts, to best ensure their safety and that of their colleagues and families.