

Edinburgh Local Association

Email to Corporate Leadership Team

Below is an edited email sent to the Corporate Leadership Team of City of Edinburgh Council on 16th March, regarding making FFP2 respirators available to all staff who might want them (the edits are to remove earlier conversations that were not intended to be shared widely, and references to individual employees).

Colleagues

Below you will see an email exchange between [] and myself, regarding the use of FFP respirators in schools. The EIS stance is that these respirators should be made available to all school staff who want to use them (many of the arguments would also apply to other settings, but I can obviously only speak in respect to schools). I raised this with [], we had a brief exchange, and he then suggested that I needed to take the matter to yourselves.

The attached paper gives some of the reasons why we feel that providing FFP2 respirators would be an appropriate measure for CEC to take. It doesn't cover everything - having spent a bit of time researching this, I could provide arguments on several different grounds - but does counter some of the most commonly proffered arguments I have encountered against making this mitigation available to staff.

Based on what [] emailed to me, I understand that CEC's principle objection is that Scottish Government guidance mandates face coverings, and thus CEC provides face coverings. To summarise what I have put in the paper - Scottish Government does indeed mandate face coverings, but they do so in the context of face coverings being one of a range of mitigations aimed at reducing *transmission* risks. EIS members want our employer to provide FFP2 respirators because they offer the wearer protection against infection, which is different. As you will know, the EIS is currently in dispute with CEC because a very large number of our members feel unsafe at work. By providing this enhanced protection, which has a different function to face coverings, the EIS feels that CEC would be going some way towards demonstrating that it recognises how vulnerable staff feel when working in schools and is willing to put measures in place to enable staff to feel more protected.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Alison

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