

Intended for healthcare professionals

🗨️Rapid response to:

## Editorials

# Public inquiry into UK's response to covid-19

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### Editorial

The UK's public health response to covid-19

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## Rapid Response:

### COVID-19: Call for a rapid forward looking review of the UK's preparedness for a second wave

Open letter to the leaders of all UK political parties

Dear Leaders of UK political parties,

Several countries are now experiencing COVID-19 flare-ups. While the future shape of the pandemic in the UK is hard to predict, the available evidence indicates that local flare ups are increasingly likely and a second wave a real risk. Many elements of the infrastructure needed to contain the virus are beginning to be put in place, but substantial challenges remain. The job now is not only to deal urgently with the wide-ranging impacts of the first phase of the pandemic, but to ensure that the country is adequately prepared to contain a second phase.

You may have seen the recent BMJ editorial calling for a transparent rapid review of where we are and what needs to be done to prevent and prepare for a second wave (<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2052>). We believe that such a review is crucial and needs to happen soon if the public is to have confidence that the virus can be contained.

The review should not be about looking back or attributing blame. Rather it should be a rapid and forward-looking assessment of national preparedness, based on an examination of the complex and interrelated policy areas listed below. These are too broad for any one of the existing select committees. That is why a cross-party