

- vi. *Dispose of all used tissues promptly into a waste bin.*
- vii. *Wash hands **regularly** with soap and water; **and in the absence of soap and water, hand gel is recommended.***
- viii. *Keep hands away from the eyes, nose and mouth.*

- 3.5 AH commented that in the 2009 pandemic campaign of Catch it, Bin it, Kill it, there were not clear messages that hand washing outside of a cough or a sneeze was important. The fact that regular hand washing is important regardless of symptoms should be stressed and not just something you do after sneezing.
- 3.6 Members agreed and the focus on general hand washing is consistent with other studies that people who regularly washed their hands have a lower incidence of respiratory viruses such as influenza.
- 3.7 NERVTAG agrees with the written recommendation with additional emphasis on general hand hygiene and makes no differentiation between symptomatic or asymptomatic or those not infected.
- 3.8 CSm commented that from his understanding that washing hands with soap and warm water, the warmth makes no difference and should be amended to “*washing hands with soap and water; and in the absence of soap and water, hand gel is recommended.*” This amendment was accepted.
- 3.9 PO commented whether there should be a recommendation of the length of time of washing hands. PH commented that he believes this exists in existing healthcare guidance but in communications to the public this may be too much of nuance.
- 3.10 JVT asked if it is the committee’s view that for this novel coronavirus, we do not understand the modes of transmission of this virus, and we do not understand the relative contribution of fine particles aka droplet nuclei, large droplets and contact transmission.
- 3.11 Members commented that yes, NERVTAG do not have a full understanding of the modes of transmission and NERVTAG are making assumptions based on other respiratory pathogens but it is reasonable for us to infer the nature of transmission of this virus, and that hand washing would be a recommended as a counter measure.