**Please support the PRINCIPLE National primary care Urgent Public Health Platform trial of community treatment of Covid-Like-Illness**

***In the absence of evidence, prescribe in the context of a clinical trial!***

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to completely disappear any time soon. We still don’t have a treatment for use in the community, earlier on in the disease process, that is proven to be effective. It is critically urgent, therefore, that we include as many eligible people as possible into clinical treatment trials. Our default should be to “*randomise before we prescribe*”!

***The PRINCIPLE Trial***

The PRINCPLE Trial is primary care’s flagship Urgent Public Health clinical trial platform. It is the only truly national trial of treatments for COVID-19 in the community and is endorsed by the Chief Medical Officers of the four UK nations.

***Who can help recruit?***

Any health care professional, family member or friend can direct people with suspected SARS-COV-2 infection to the trial at <https://www.principletrial.org>. GPs and sites are **reimbursed** for providing information about eligibility and for randomising participants. *There are no long forms, and clinicians do not need to store or issue medication.*

***PRINCIPLE is a ‘low-burden’ trial: Research is being ‘taken to the patient’***

Potential participants can then screen themselves on the web platform, consent is paperless and online, and once eligibility is confirmed, any treatment and study materials will be set out by couriers directly to the participant by the study team.

***Who is eligible?***

We are seeking to recruit people with symptoms of COVID-like-illness who are aged 50 and over and have a comorbidity, or who are aged 65 and over, with or without comorbidity.

***Let us give every eligible patient, UK-wide, the chance to contribute to PRINCIPLE***

Although, mercifully, the pandemic has waned dramatically, new cases continue to emerge, and an upsurge in incident cases is feared. We need to be far more ‘research-ready’, country-wide. Ensuring affected people the opportunity to contribute to PRINCIPLE is a great service that we can offer out patients, and which will be of great service to our clinical discipline and delivery of world-class, evidence based primary care!

***How can PCNs help?***

This trial need all those who care for people with suspected SARS-Cov-2 to feel ownership of the PRINCIPLE Trial, and keep it in the forefront of their minds when delivering care. We therefore ask that you provide the study team with details about how care for Covid-like-illness with be delivered in your PCN: we desperately need to engage with *potential clinical champions in existing and potential Covid ‘hot hubs’.* Please email us with any information that could help the trial have a presence in your service at: **principle@phc.ox.ac.uk**

***With thanks***

***The PRINCIPLE Trial Team***