

# SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

## **Ethical Guidelines – Collecting Covid-19**

The Science Museum Group (SMG) is very aware of the challenges and sensitivities around collecting during a global emergency. We are determined that our approach should be both considered and ethical, and that collecting will only take place if it is essential and time-critical during the pandemic. We are also aware of implied approval or support from the Science Museum when collecting new technology and will attempt to mitigate this.

We intend that:

- SMG will make no communication or ask for any action that will take medical practitioners, NHS workers or those involved in response efforts away from their important duties
- We will take no action that might involve an increase in human contact at times of recommended isolation or lockdown, such as deliveries or other movement of material or people
- We will be respectful and sensitive to the fact that lives and livelihoods are at risk, both in the collecting and future display of this material
- We will ensure that our collecting is considered and properly documented to ensure maximum usefulness for future research and display
- We will ensure that all collecting follows both the SMG Collections Development Plan and the Museums Association Covid-19 Ethical Guidelines, confirming that our collecting is not duplicating the work of others
- We will ensure that our own staff are supported in collecting and displaying this material