

**To the Ministers of Health of the  
European Union**  
via e-mail

Lisbon, 18 February 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The roll-out of the vaccination campaigns taking place across the Member-States is happening in full steam. However, we cannot ignore the difficulties which have recently arisen regarding the surge of new variants and the need for better testing strategies.

In light of the very fruitful discussions which we shared at the Informal Minister's Meeting last month, I am pleased to invite you to a second virtual Informal Meeting of Health Ministers, to take place on 1 March 2021.

The meeting will be held virtually (WebEx) and in English only. It will start on 1 March 2021 at 09:30 (GMT) and finish at around 12:00 (GMT).

The purpose of the meeting is to have an informal exchange of information and views regarding the impact caused upon Member-States by the surge of new Sars-CoV-2 variants. Additionally, improved testing strategies, as well as issues relating to information sharing of vaccination roll-out plans will also be discussed. The European Commission, the ECDC and EMA are also invited to the meeting.

If you accept the invitation, I kindly invite you to inform my Cabinet by 25 February 2021, 18:00 (GMT), at: [ppue2021@ms.gov.pt](mailto:ppue2021@ms.gov.pt).

A more detailed Agenda, as well as technical details, will be sent to you following acceptance of this invitation.

I am very much looking forward to a fruitful and productive discussion on 1 March 2021.

Yours truly,

