Microbial neighbouring
We started on the buses with passengers thinking about attitudes to COVID-19 microbes, each other...

We now want to explore people’s relationships to microbes in a wider sense (those hands are a bit grubby...)

Neighbouring is an interesting way to frame discussion

We have done research around other non-human neighbours

Though obviously most of us can’t see our microbial neighbours!

Let’s get in gear by thinking about how we view our human neighbours
So think about your human neighbours...

We are quite distant on our street... (we appreciate our space)

With a few 'forever neighbours'. My family's been here for generations.

But more transient neighbours... which comes with privilege of having some.

Most of our interactions are outdoors.

Morning, morning, morning.

Building have become part of our household...

And our neighbourhood.

But also made us fearful of COVID-19 brought neighbours together.

But what if they're friends?

We mostly bond (or disagree)...

Noisy neighbours, high turn over, nuisance risk.

Smelly neighbours.

Who knows if they're friends? COVID-19, penicillin?

We have no idea who many neighbours are!

A space thing again. Microbe virus spread was a big concern in our block.

Mystery neighbours!
Bodily neighbours?

What can you feel?

What are you aware of?

Waiting on overdue dental appt...

I was hyperaware of party going on in my mouth

Dairy, I couldn't escape the dairy!

What effect is this having on my gut?

Sweat... occasionally fecal smell

My skin feels greasy during my period...

Feels like acne to come.

And it's a regular thing.

Microbes can be itchy, scratchy.

The whiff on the tube is microbial.

The smell is microbial.

SEPTEMBER

Inability to shower for few days... EEK!

I can't wash my hair!

What effect will ENERGY CRISIS have?

Slimes, salad

Slimy salad

In the tropics microbial infection is hugely accelerated.

Food scent as aid can be a danger.
When my dog was sick, it was out with the gloves! She doesn't bother so much for me - I'm much more hygienic. Are you, though?

Microbes transfer via surfaces, which is why copper is good.

You wouldn't share a toothbrush. Where was that endoscope used?

Microbes can pass via medical equipment.

Lots of factors at play when people weigh up their safety levels.

Complacency

I don't know anyone who got it. Not a thing anymore. I only bad for older people.

Vulnerable groups cannot afford to be complacent or ill-informed.

With pets...

Familiarity = clean

Unknown = dirty

What is a tolerable level?

How ill will I get?

Perceived risk
Clean vs Dirty?
What does this mean?

Dirty is when it's a problem (or perceived risk of one).

With regards to getting dirty...
As a kid I could do what I wanted...
...and that outlook I pass to my kids
(JUST WATCH OUT FOR POO!!!)

Look at those nails!
In France we use napkins (not our clothes) to wipe hands

Wash hands before meals?
There are cultural differences...

Politiness and microbe awareness

Politely... should you move if someone sits next to you on the bus?

What part does racial prejudice play? or class prejudice?

Unknown = Dirty
Bus = Poor = Dirty
Any thoughts on MICROBIAL NEIGHBOURS in the break?

- Stinky rubber seal
- Watering a plant (which causes an aroma)
- Look at that grubby neck!
- Soap dodging kids
- "And their bathroom... (Avoid!)"
- The tablet I draw on is a bit 'filmy'...

I'd never really thought about the microbes at play...
First experiences of microbes?

A doc about monks brewing beer

First sore throat

Don't suck coins!

What will today's kids say when asked this?

2m

(could be COVID-19 related, but could also be that time they got LEGO stuck up their nose... )
Cost of living perfect storm

In so many ways we live in a time of US & THEM.

Same with microbes.

If you kill 99% of microbes dead, you get rid of good ones.

Nuke them.

Words we use to talk microbes...

'Tolerance levels' 'cleansing'.

...sadly also are used to talk about people...

A sidenote...

For the Queen's funeral...

...the great & the good have been asked to travel on shared commercial flights & buses...

...with (ahem) 'the great unwashed'.

Which brings us full circle...

World leaders on the Megabus!

I know a song that'll get on yer nerves!

Get on yer nerves!

Got on yer nerves!