



Provider Bulletin

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Personal Protective Equipment

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The updated guidance for social care providers contains information on the use of PPE required for Staff when delivering Personal Care to confirmed cases of COVID-19 or to those people who are self-isolating and symptomatic. This includes the use of fluid repellent surgical masks.

The Department of Health & Social Care issued an open letter to Care Providers (which we distributed on Wednesday 18th March) covering the Free distribution of fluid repellent facemasks from the pandemic flu stock which started on Wednesday 18th March, with every care home and home care provider receiving at least 300 facemasks. It is anticipated that the distribution will be complete by next Tuesday 24th March 2020.

We are aware that the delivery of stock was delayed and deliveries are still ongoing and so If you are still waiting for your delivery of 300 face masks, we urge you to contact the National Supply Disruption Response Unit using the contact details below.

National Supply Disruption Response (NSDR) unit on:

Freephone number in the UK: 0800 915 9964

Direct line: 0044 (0) 191 283 6543

Email: supplydisruptionservice@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

This a 24 hour, 7 days a week monitored account which applies to all providers, regardless of whether or not you currently have an NHS Supply Chain account

The Quality & Market Improvement Team were previously able to offer a small supply of Face Masks whilst organisations were waiting for their delivery of free fluid repellent facemasks. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to offer a supply of face masks as the supply has ended.

As a result, we are only able to direct providers to the national supply disruption response unit and we are making a request that providers do not attend the Council's services requesting face masks.

We would request that providers continue to order their own PPE as necessary and seek advice from us where you need it.

We also want to share some relevant information with Providers around PPE, and so please find the following information:

The link below is to an open letter from NHS England regarding deliveries of PPE:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/PPE-Letter-FINAL-20-March-2020-updated-on-22-March-2020.pdf>

Any comments you have about these Bulletins (good or bad!) are welcome. Please contact:

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British Geriatrics Society, have also produced some guidance for managing COVID-19 in care homes and there is a section within this guidance on PPE:

https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/covid-19-managing-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-care-homes#_edn6

Guidance is also available regarding the status of equipment to make sure your equipment provides the required levels of protection:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-status-of-equipment-being-used-to-help-prevent-coronavirus-covid-19>

Below is the link to the Gov.uk Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We have also created the attached document that provides some guidance on when PPE should be used.

We are also working closely with our Health colleagues to ensure that every provider have sufficient supplies of appropriate PPE and are raising the risks we are all facing by the lack of available products. From Monday 30th March the Quality & Market Improvement Team will be contacting care providers to discuss their current stock levels of PPE and the ongoing risks to people in relation to the lack of PPE.

We are also asking for Providers who find themselves with additional supplies of PPE to make contact with the Quality & Market Improvement Team, if you are able to share some PPE stock with other Providers who are struggling to obtain supplies and cannot ensure the safety of their staff and people they support. We will then be able to match the two providers and arrange delivery.

Finally:

Remember - prevention is always better than cure. As with the flu virus, the most effective way to protect yourself from Covid-19, Coronavirus is to adopt good respiratory and hand hygiene to prevent the risk of infection and a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes.

The best way to protect yourself and others is:

- wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day;
- catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, throw away the used tissue, bin it, and wash your hands;
- if you don't have a tissue, use your sleeve;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; and
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell.