



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Director of PPE Policy and Strategy,
Department of Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
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18 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to update you on the upcoming changes to the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) PPE distribution plan which you may wish to share with your members.

Throughout the first wave of COVID-19, the DHSC has provided emergency only PPE supplies to certain health and social care providers in need. This has been done directly via the PPE Portal and the local resilience forums, and indirectly enabled through wholesale sales events. The global demand for PPE remains high and this will only increase in the northern hemisphere as we move through autumn and into the winter. It is essential that we make sure everyone working in primary and social care is supplied the PPE that they need.

To meet this challenge DHSC has reviewed a range of information, including PPE demand and supply data and service provider feedback. Using this evidence and to enable us to meet these unique circumstances, we have decided to transform the approach to PPE distribution for a limited period. We will both increase individual order limits and provide specific PPE items free of charge to an increased number of primary and social care providers between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 as a phased approach.

The PPE portal will be available to all GPs, optometrists, dentists with NHS patients, all community pharmacies as well as adult social care and children's social care homes and domiciliary care providers. Items to be increased are: aprons, gowns, nitrile gloves, Type IIR masks, Type 2 masks, FFP2 masks, (provisionally) FFP3 masks, visors and hand hygiene.

Additionally, the following PPE items will be available to local authority employed social care workforce and those adults social care services that will not be supplied via the PPE Portal: aprons, coveralls, nitrile gloves, Type IIR Masks, FFP3 Masks, eye protection, hand hygiene, and clinical waste bags.

We will also be supplying hospices via a direct push. We are not proposing to extend this provision to exclusively private primary care providers that do not currently hold an NHS contract.

This increase is designed to solely meet the additional demand for PPE created by COVID-19. You should continue to source business-as-usual PPE via the usual routes. We have distributed over a quarter of a million items via the wholesale sales events since 6 March 2020 and are extremely grateful for the work our wholesalers have done to help maintain PPE supply chains over the last 7 months. We hope these short term measures will enable us all to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the Winter months while keeping people safe

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Howitt', written in a cursive style.

Peter Howitt

Director of PPE Policy and Strategy

Department of Health and Social Care