



### PPE update | where else to start?

Following new guidance issued by Public Health England on Monday

- [How to work safely in care homes](#)

and

- [How to work safely in domiciliary care](#)

we think it is useful to remind you that the implementation of the guidance is dependent on your risk assessment (as previously recommended by us) and depends on a range of factors:

- the environment you work in (space / other people)
- the clients you work with (their needs and behaviours)
- the staff you have (their experience, confidence and skillset)

There are broad do's and don'ts and some of the changes, such as donning PPE outside a client's home may go against good IPC, but it depends on your client. Equally, where you are working with less vulnerable adults, you may want to manage PPE usage so that when you need it, you have some available. It may be worth risk assessing the shift or round that your staff have to do as shown within the guidance rather than looking at each client/ resident in isolation.

The long awaited **Clipper pipeline** is coming. We understand the care provider email address (as opposed to the Registered Manager) will receive an email from [ppe.dedicated.supply.channel@notifications.service.gov.uk](mailto:ppe.dedicated.supply.channel@notifications.service.gov.uk). You cannot join until you get an invitation.

Providers working in the pilot have received the following:

*You can order PPE through a portal we're working on with eBay.*

*The service for primary and social care is still at pilot stage, but we invite you to try it and order some vital equipment.*

*Register <https://www.nhs-ppe.co.uk/>*

*Only this email address can be used*

*The full service is due to be rolled out in May, so continue to use your existing suppliers.*

*Thank you for your continued work to keep people safe*

When we hear more, we will of course let you know.

### **One of the Government Big 7 suppliers, Gompels, has written this:**

*The invitation to order system gave us a chance to breathe and refine the ways in which we cope with unlimited demand for very limited stocks. We are not enjoying playing God as we decide who gets stock and who does not, but decisions have to be made. As of week commencing 19th April week we have moved to a PPE+ pass system that gives us the ability to allow our existing recent care customers the*

*chance to order a limited amount of PPE stock lines + other short supply products. By controlling the frequency and value of the passes, we can match the demand to the stock that is available.*

*What's more, this PPE+ pass means that any, new or existing customers can purchase, without restrictions, products like bins, paints and nappies.*

*When we are confident about the long-term availability of a product, we can remove the PPE+ flag with its associated restrictions to allow new and existing (Care and non-Care) customers to purchase the product.*

*The stock situation is changing all the time. At the moment, we have a good supply of face masks and are experimenting with letting all customers purchase them. That lets us gauge the demand and inform our future ordering. Enough stocks will be held back for Care customers so we can support them in their invaluable role as they look after our grandparents, sick relatives and frail friends.*

*We feel terrible about some of the prices that we are having to charge our loyal customers. In normal times it would be outrageous and wrong. There is a stark choice that we have had to make to secure stock. Either we pay the new price or we have no stock to sell on to you. Ultimately, we see ourselves as your buying department. Where possible we make sure that we have sufficient stock and leave it to you to decide if you want to pay the price. Our prices will go up and down with the prices that we have to pay to secure your stock.*

*Every day we are sending out similar volumes of stock to what we would supply in a normal non Covid-19 week. That has been broadly sufficient to keep our recent regular care customers going with minimal "Out of stocks". There have been specific challenges around face masks, alcohol gel, infection control wipes and Chlorine that we have not always been able to bridge. Part of the reason for this is that our UK suppliers for gel and wipes were told to cancel our production slots (which had been pre-booked well in advance) and produce for the NHS. Despite being one of the 7 Public Health England appointed emergency suppliers to the social care sector, we could not get hold of those products.*

*When the demand for Chlorine based products goes up 4 fold and the lead time from suppliers extends overnight from 2 weeks to 8 weeks, even our normally large stock holding cannot bridge the gap. We would have needed nearly a year's worth of stock in store to keep you supplied. Sadly, we only had 15 weeks of stock which sold in under 4 weeks. Going forward, there are definite challenges on most PPE related lines. We have reasonably good visibility until July 2020. The buying team is doing an amazing job of trying to push that out to August and beyond. Because we are in this for the long term and appreciate the priceless work that our customers are doing, we are doing everything that we can to make sure we keep care and key workers supplied week in week out. It will certainly not be everything at all times that you need, but it will be the vast majority.*

*The big unknown in all of this is working out what happens next and how long will it last. We have no idea. We will proceed with what feels like a healthy mix of caution and bold moves. Only time will tell us if we have the right mix.*

*Last week there were many accusations bouncing around on Twitter, the press and Nicola Sturgeon that we had been told to only supply England with PPE. This related to of 3 specific products from the England pandemic flu stocks that Public Health England had asked us to supply to Care homes in England only; because Scotland and Wales had been allocated their own part of the UK's stockpile. Day in, day out, we continue to supply customers in Scotland, Wales and England with Gompels PPE products.*

*No restrictions, no government advice to the contrary, just perfectly fairly to all our existing recent customers.*

Plenty of posters and YouTube videos showing how to wear PPE - [hear's another handy poster](#)

The NRS Depot has a limited quantity of hand sanitiser at the NRS depot in Bicester. Each provider can pick up a box of 2 x 5L bottles on either Thursday 30 April or Friday 1 May from 10am to 4pm each day. The quantity is limited so please be aware it is first come first served until the quantity is exhausted. There are no smaller bottles but the solution can be readily decanted into your own smaller soap-dispenser-size bottles. Please respect the strict hygiene protocols in place at the NRS depot and be prepared to show your company ID and state your name and organisation.

The address of the Bicester NRS depot is:

NRS Healthcare  
Unit 8  
Longlands Road

Bicester  
OX26 5AH  
(OX26 5AF works better in sat-navs)

We also understand that rolls of aprons are available through the Community Support Service distribution points. Email [ASCCovid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ASCCovid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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#### **RIDDOR reporting | sample wording**

Via NCF, a care provider shared wording they are using on the mandatory reporting:

*'The exact date and place that the member of staff was infected with COVID 19 is not known. Whilst in the workplace the member of staff has been wearing all relevant PPE, as required by the Public Health England publication COVID-19 Infection Prevention Control Guidance (with updates), disposable gloves, apron, fluid repellent mask and eye protection. As such, it cannot be concluded with certainty that the virus was contracted at work.'*

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The debate goes on about **whether chest compressions** are considered as aerosol generating procedures. The [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance has been updated](#).

*Published 10 January 2020*

*Last updated 27 April 2020 - hide all updates*

*27 April 2020*

*Added statement following NERVTAG review of cardiopulmonary resuscitation as an aerosol generating procedure, and added same statement into the PDF of the complete guidance.*

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#### **A message from the Minister for Care**

"The care sector is a vital part of our society, and this pandemic has truly brought home the skill and commitment of care workers who are looking after some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

"We want to make sure everyone knows what an important and valued job care workers do, and inspire more people to step forwards to join the care workforce.

adult social care workforce in England as part of a wider plan to attract more staff into the sector.

"We want to bring together all those thinking they might work in care with social care providers looking for new recruits, and to make it as simple as possible for the doors to open up for thousands more compassionate and committed people to work in care. To support care providers who are looking to recruit staff, we are offering free initial training to applicants considering a job in care. This should help job seekers looking to work in care for the first time and their future employers. More information on this can be found in the newsletter below.

"This week we announced that all care home staff and care home residents will be eligible for testing  
irector of Adult Social Care and Professor

Paul Johnstone, Public Health England's National Director have also this week jointly written to the care sector on arrangements to make it easier to get testing for social care staff and residents. More information on this is set out in the newsletter below.

"Our aim is that most people should not have to drive for more than 45 minutes to get to a regional testing site and we are rolling out additional testing methods to further support testing accessibility. This includes a network of new mobile testing units which will travel the country to reach care homes and other sites, a

across England.

"Thank you for your ongoing resilience and determination to deliver care to those who need it most throughout this pandemic. I will continue to keep you updated on progress towards our commitment to give you all you need to do your vital work during this challenging period."

- Helen Whately, Minister for Care

On the topic of recruitment, a [Furlough Exchange](#) has been set up by Team Oxford. *We know there are employees currently on furlough who may wish to volunteer their time to support organisations within the Voluntary and Charitable Sector (VCS) to help secure their futures. There is a wealth of skills, experience and knowledge within VCS organisations that can be lent to neighbouring organisations. For example we could be talking about fundraisers, communications experts, administrators, coordinators, and that's just for starters. We're keen to hear from anyone who has time to volunteer, that could be you! Just get in touch using [this contact form](#). We are also keen to hear from VCS organisations who would like to sign up to benefit from this scheme. Have you had to furlough staff? Maybe the demand on your services has drastically increased during this crisis and you could do with some extra hands on deck? Fill in the form on [the sign up page](#) and let us know how we can help connect you with more volunteers.*

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### Care Home deaths | the reality

It is pleasing that [Government has caught up with numbers](#), just about, of covid-19 related deaths in care homes. However, this has brought an unwelcome suggestion that all care home residents should be moved to the halls of NHS Nightingale or other similar aircraft sized hanger for their own safety. It was disappointing that one of the public questions today was suggesting this again. Whilst Government answer was reasonable, we felt there was an omission of acknowledging the fabulous work done in care homes to manage this crisis. After all, you do it annually for flu and who knows how many people could have died if care homes hadn't been working so hard. Moving people out of care homes is not the solution - proper PPE and sustainable funding is.

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### Message from Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

#### **PRACTICE NURSES – YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU!**

Patient Care during Coronavirus programme is asking experienced practice nurses to join the teams in our dedicated COVID-19 clinics across the county. If you are not currently working in one of our Oxfordshire practices but are interested in helping care for patients during the pandemic, please complete this quick availability survey and we will contact you. Thank you and [please complete this survey](#) to register).

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### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | step by step guide for employers

A step by step guide explains the information that employers need to provide to HMRC to make a claim through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. It also describes the processes involved. Please note that if you are an employer making a claim, you need to follow the processes explained in the guidance page. [Claim for your employees' wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme on GOV.UK](#).

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### Testing | expansion of the national scheme

[Further expansion of access to coronavirus testing](#) helps protect the most vulnerable

- Everyone in England aged 65 and over with coronavirus symptoms can now get tested, along with symptomatic members of their household
- Symptomatic workers who are unable to work from home also eligible for testing
- Testing of all asymptomatic NHS and social care staff and care home residents also being rolled out
- New expansion of testing made possible due to rapidly increasing testing capacity

The eventual aim is that no-one has to travel more than 45 miles to a testing station.

A reminder that the swab test is not 100% accurate, more 60-70%. A negative test is not a green flag for normal working, but may need risk assessing prior to return to work. People are testing negative, sometimes twice, before dying with death recorded as by covid, due to medical observation.

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## Government confirms allocations of £1.6 billion funding boost for councils

Individual councils in England have [funding allocations confirmed](#) following Local Government funding beyond the initial £1.6bn local government received in March of which Oxfordshire received over £14.5m

### **Oxfordshire**

- *Cherwell*
  - 1st tranche £67,257
  - 2nd tranche £1,499,041
  - Total £1,566,298
- *Oxford city*
  - 1st tranche £110,247
  - 2nd tranche £1,511,435
  - Total £1,621,682
- **Oxfordshire**
  - 1st tranche £14,539,189
  - 2nd tranche £12,694,685
  - Total £27,233,874
- *South Oxfordshire*
  - 1st tranche £45,877
  - 2nd tranche £1,401,792
  - Total £1,447,669
- *Vale of White Horse*
  - 1st tranche £41,741
  - 2nd tranche £1,365,710
  - Total £1,407,451
- *West Oxfordshire*
  - 1st tranche £37,796
  - 2nd tranche £1,097,287
  - Total £1,135,083

### **Buckinghamshire**

- 1st tranche £10,638,420
- 2nd tranche £14,948,491
- Total £25,586,911

### **Berkshire**

#### **Bracknell Forest**

- 1st tranche £2,392,072
- 2nd tranche £3,373,610
- Total £5,765,682

#### **Reading**

- 1st tranche £3,838,960
- 2nd tranche £4,493,980
- Total £8,332,940

#### **Slough**

- 1st tranche £3,518,642
- 2nd tranche £4,117,021
- Total £7,635,663

#### **West Berkshire**

- 1st tranche £3,219,820
- 2nd tranche £4,339,250
- Total £7,559,070

#### **Windsor And Maidenhead**

- 1st tranche £2,983,637
- 2nd tranche £4,149,176
- Total £7,132,813

#### **Wokingham**

- 1st tranche £2,574,572
- 2nd tranche £4,712,473
- Total £7,287,045

#### **Milton Keynes**

- 1st tranche £6,077,717
- 2nd tranche £7,427,128
- Total £13,504,845

While we are in the arena of funding, [this from The Carer](#), where the Independent Care Group says that not enough has been done to support social care in comparison to the NHS. Social care currently looks after 400,000 people in care and nursing homes - that is three times the number in NHS hospital beds - and a further 640,000 people in their own homes.

[Care Management Matters provides some figures for how the emergency funding](#) has been spent so far. We agree that what's been allocated is a drop in the ocean bearing in mind where social care started from - we have asked local government to distribute it quickly and fairly whilst involving care providers in the discussions about how.

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You many already have seen the webinar or received the recording directly from NHS / Skills for Care, but in case you missed it, the [Care Home and the Domiciliary Care staff PPE/IPC webinar recordings are now all on the same page](#).

You will land on the *Covid 19 page: Guidance from Other Agencies*, scroll down and click on the Tab *Learning and Development*, then click on the Tab *Infection Prevention Control*.

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#### **NHSmail | Reminder - please act on this opportunity**

NEW - daily webinars on signing up for NHS mail: Introduction to NHSmail for Social Care

Please note these sessions do not run on a Saturday or Sunday

These sessions are included in the registration email for new accounts, but all are welcome to join please email [HLP.ehchprogramme@nhs.net](mailto:HLP.ehchprogramme@nhs.net) and the team will forward the invite

**Every day from 3 Apr 2020 until 2 May 2020, 14:30 to 15:30**

Fast track application for NHS Mail:

- [Social care coronavirus NHSmail form](#) - send to [care.registration@nhs.net](mailto:care.registration@nhs.net)
- [NHSmail user guide](#)
- [NHSmail set-up](#)

Key contact :[Todd Davidson at South Central and West Commissioning Support Unit](#) who will help you with questions you might have and locating your organisation Code.

(If you already have and use NHS Mail, he would like to know that as well).

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**Government guidance** issued over the last few days:

All links and documents shared through this mailing are at our [shared #Coronavirus page](#).  
*BCA, MKB Care and OACP working together for you.*

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#### **Care Association Alliance**

As well as a constant stream of questions and answers by email from around the country, we are also part of the CAA weekly teleconference - Wednesdays at 10am. This informs us of current concerns and potential solutions and helps inform our local communications.

#### **Oxfordshire Adult Social Care**

We have a weekly call with local sector leaders + OCC + Oxfordshire Public Health + CQC Area Inspector on a Tuesday at 1pm. [Local questions to us by noon each Tuesday](#).

#### **Learning Disability/ Autism liaison**

There are specific issues that LD/ Autism providers face. We have a call with our local LD/ Autism network every Tuesday at 11am. And a call with commissioners on Thursday pm to provide a feedback loop.

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#### **Consistent, quality information**

We are mailing out three times a week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) at around 3pm, so you know when to look out for it. These updates will provide summary advice on emerging issues and signpost providers to government and other statutory agency advice as needed.

#### **Reminder**

We are working across the Thames Valley with Berkshire and Oxfordshire. All the government guidance disseminated by us and local templates shared with us is [on one page at Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers](#). Items published since the last mailing are marked **NEW**. We're a little behind, but we'll get to it.

We are always keen to hear from providers, if you have anything you would like to share with provider colleagues, please send to [the usual address](#).



Receiving this newsletter for the first time?

We are adding new colleagues all the time.

[Please let us know](#) if there are other colleagues you would like this mailing sent to.

OACP

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OACP works with the following suppliers to bring you market insight, quality products and expert advice. Contact them today.



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