

Message

From: Jill Vickerman [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=71906936FF414F40BC53D2077C2DA57E-JILL VICKER]
Sent: 07/04/2020 07:52:05
To: CMO@gov.scot; Directorofhealthworkforce@gov.scot
Subject: Fwd: BMA press release: Embargoed 00.01 Tuesday, 7 April 2020. BMA survey finds Doctors' lives still at risk despite government pledges on Personal Protective Equipment

Catherine
Gregor

To be aware of the PPE short survey which was carried out across the UK by the London BMA - high level results announced today.

We decided not to release Scottish figures - but rather to share highlights with you. I'll discuss in the calls which are being set up with each of you.

There is a plan to rerun the survey - to identify any changes in member experience.

Speak soon

Jill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Name Redacted]@bma.org.uk>
Date: 6 April 2020 at 20:53:17 BST
To: Media Office <MediaOffice@bma.org.uk>, PUBLIC AFFAIRS <PUBLIC.AFFAIRS@bma.org.uk>, Social Media <Social.Media@bma.org.uk>
Cc: Deborah Oliver <DOliver@bma.org.uk>, [Name Redacted]@bma.org.uk>
Subject: BMA press release: Embargoed 00.01 Tuesday, 7 April 2020. BMA survey finds Doctors' lives still at risk despite government pledges on Personal Protective Equipment

Good evening

To flag; we have today issued the below press release to all media under embargo for tomorrow.

[UK GP testing 060420.pdf](#)
[UK hospital testing 060420.pdf](#)

BMA press release: Embargoed 00.01 Tuesday, 7 April 2020.

BMA survey finds doctors' lives still at risk despite government pledges on Personal Protective Equipment

More than two thirds of doctors have told the British Medical Association in a new survey that they do not feel safely protected from coronavirus infection where they work.

Despite repeated assurances by the government for over a week that millions of units of protective equipment have been delivered to the frontline, a BMA snapshot survey with almost 2,000 responses¹, revealed that large numbers of doctors are still expected to care for Covid-19 patients with little or no personal protective equipment.

This comes amid increasing numbers of deaths among healthcare workers in the UK and in Italy where doctors' representatives are linking over 100 deaths to lack of PPE.

According to the survey, more than half of doctors working in high-risk environments² said there were either shortages or no supply at all of adequate face masks, while 65% said they did not have access to eye protection. Alarming, 55% said they felt pressurised to work in a high-risk area despite not having adequate PPE.

Almost 90% of GPs in contact with Covid patients reported either shortages or no access at all to eye protection, and 62% reported problems with supply of facemasks. More than half of GPs who responded said they had had to buy their own facemasks or eye protection, with only 2% saying they felt fully protected against the virus at work.

The survey was launched following the Government's updating of PPE guidelines for doctors and mounting anecdotal evidence that frontline workers simply don't have access to enough masks, gloves and gowns. This survey shows that doctors are not being provided with the appropriate protective equipment as specified by the government's own guidelines.

One hospital doctor said: "The quality of our eye protection and apron is useless. Some of the PPE provided feels like a tick-box exercise just for psychological reassurance."

Another doctor said: "I am the only Muslim anaesthetist with a beard in my department. I am being forced to shave my beard due to unavailability of hood masks with respirator, and a bearded doctor can't pass a fit mask test."

While one GP told the BMA: "I feel betrayed by the government who are not transparent enough to say that they do not have the ideal supplies and are therefore asking us to put ourselves in harms' way with suboptimal protection."

The survey also revealed that despite the government stating that it was ramping up testing for healthcare workers, only 195 respondents said they had ready access to tests. Furthermore, 40% of both hospital doctors and GPs said colleagues having to self-isolate because of suspected or confirmed Covid-19 was currently having a significant impact on capacity to treat patients.

The survey also found

- Just 12% of hospital doctors said they felt fully protected from the virus at work.
- Nearly 30% of hospital doctors said their trust did not offer any Covid-19 testing for staff with self-isolating symptoms.
- 36% of hospital doctors said capacity had significantly reduced because of colleagues having to self-isolate.
- 27% of hospital doctors reported running low on basic anti-infection supplies such as soap.

Dr Nagpaul said: "In less than three days, nearly 2,000 doctors across the UK have told us how desperate their situation really is. Despite assurances from the Government that personal protective equipment is making its way to the front line, this snapshot survey reveals a very different picture - healthcare workers in the UK simply do not have enough protective equipment