

## IPC Cell Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

OFFICIAL/SENSITIVE

### Attendees

Linda Dempster (Chair) – NHSEI (LD)

**NR** – NHSEI **NR**

**NR** – NHSEI **NR**

Caroline McGearey – HSCNI (CM)

Carole Fry – PHE (CF)

Susie Singleton – PHE (SS)

**NR** – HSCI **NR**

Susie Dodd – HPS (SD)

Gail Lusardi – PHW (GL)

Eleri Davies – PHW (ED)

Apologies: Lisa Ritchie (NHSEI)

### Action Log

Action 1: LR to send around a TOR for the new IPC Huddle format

### Exception Reporting

#### Northern Ireland

- CM queried an item relating to fail rate for FFP3 masks – 1863 and 1873 with high fail rates in Northern Ireland during fit testing. CM wondered whether there is an HSE position
  - LD advised that UK providers have found that masks have been failing fit tests across a range of masks however HSE has stood by their original fit testing statement and that all FFP3/2 masks were to be fit tested. LD noted that PHE sent an update that FFP2 mask could be worn without a fit test in the absence of surgical masks when not being worn ‘as an FFP2 mask.’
  - SD noted that Scotland has created a poster which CM advised she has received
  - GL commented that FFP3 mask discussion has been had around crossing the elastic at the top and bottom to obtain a better fit despite this being against 3M instructions.
- CM commented that AGP discussions have been had around individual organisations to decide on what an AGP is which is causing confusion in trusts in NI as some are going with resus council guidance over PHE guidance. CM noted that these additional guidelines are causing ongoing issues.

- LD noted that these issues are the same in England but key point has been made that resuscitation should not be delayed for PPE
- CM commented that care homes were refusing to undertake CPR due to this issue

#### Republic of Ireland

- **NR** noted only additional comment/issues were around PPE and AGP's.
- Undertaking webinars with care home cohort to disseminate the guidance which have been well received.
- **NR** noted that PPE is a huge challenge
  - Republic of Ireland has a company undertaking fit testing. Type of masks fit well over others which is causing issue.

#### PHE

- CF noted she has been asked where **fluid repellent**? surgical masks are not available, would a visor and a lower standard mask be acceptable
  - LD noted that this is currently with decision-making group/HSE for an answer
  - SD queried whether the lower standard mask would be a type one or two
  - CF commented that it would be a type 2 or a type 2R
- CF asked who sits on the reprocessing of PPE group
  - LD noted this is HSE, MHRA and other organisations provide technical advice on this group but LD does not sit on it
  - CF queried if anything has been released from this group
  - LD commented that she has not yet seen the documents that specify what can be produced and the decision is being made by regulatory bodies.
- CF asked whether decision making group has a list of acceptable PPE
  - LD noted that they are collecting this information and are reviewing new products that have been suggested, there is a formal process
  - CF asked if this will be made public
  - LD unaware if it will be public or where the information will go at this stage
- LD noted that lack of training provided to care homes, the GIRT team will lead a training programme to deliver more training in this area as an additional resource. A package has been drawn up but is being led by GIRT not IPC team.
  - GL queried whether the training is available and LD to share with the group if she has it available
  - LD to share the link to the IPC Cell
- CF noted that PHE continues to work with care home stakeholders and the PPE documents will be updated as a result of the meetings. CF noted that these will not be new guidance they will just explain the tables in language that applies to these sectors.
  - CF confirmed that content will not change
- Group discussed the table contents of care home workers wearing masks between houses on public transport
  - CF commented that secretary of state signed off face coverings for the public yesterday
  - SD asked whether a guidance document will come out
  - CF noted this guidance will not come from PHE at this stage