

Ein cyf/Our ref:

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Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:

NR

Rhif Ffôn /Telephone:

I&S

Dyddiad/Date:

6 April 2020

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Helen Whyley  
Director, Royal College of Nursing Wales

By email: [helen.whyley@rcn.org.uk](mailto:helen.whyley@rcn.org.uk)

Dear Helen

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2020, in which you highlight concerns raised to you by members of the Royal College of Nursing regarding the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

First, on behalf Hywel Dda University Health Board, I would like to acknowledge the overwhelming sense of fear and anxiety that the current situation is causing for our staff, as both healthcare professionals and as members of our population.

The Health Board recognises that the main concern highlighted by staff is the availability of appropriate PPE, and as a result, we have established a PPE Cell, which is being led by our Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience, Mandy Rayani. The purpose of the Cell is to ensure that we know exactly what PPE stocks we have across the whole of the UHB footprint on a day to day basis, put in place robust ordering and delivery arrangements, in addition to tracking and monitoring usage to ensure that kit is being utilised appropriately by all staff groups.

The Cell has been mapping our ongoing requirement for PPE, which is being revised in light of most recent guidance issued on the 2 April 2020. Any deficits in PPE identified have and will continue to be escalated through the Chief Executive's Office to Welsh Government's National procurement lead.

As a Board, we are working closely with our Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) experts to ensure that the most recent, evidence based guidance is distilled and appropriate action is taken to ensure it is implemented without delay. I would also like to highlight that we have introduced an arrangement to work with our Local Authority colleagues across Health and Social Care, to ensure appropriate distribution across the entire footprint of Hywel Dda.

We have experienced a shortage of some key items (visors), which has been escalated via our procurement team, and as a result, we have sourced alternative suppliers until our regular supply chain is able to deliver. We are exploring all procurement opportunities and available routes and have been overwhelmed with offers of support from local companies. However, in order to maintain staff and patient safety, any deviation from normal procurement routes is being risk assessed and approved via our Gold Command Group.

We, as a Board, appreciate that this is a very worrying time for all our healthcare workers, but I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the safety of all our staff and the patients we care for is an absolute priority.

I trust this provides you with the assurance you were seeking. Should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Personal Data**

**Steve Moore**  
**Chief Executive**