



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

From:

Public Health Division

I&S

Cleared by:

Date:

06/03/2020

## MINISTERIAL ADVICE

For decision by: Vaughan Gething

<b>Subject</b>	Coronavirus Pandemic Supplies
<b>100 word summary</b>	<p>Welsh Ministers have agreed the UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy 2011, which set out the need for the 4 UK countries to maintain stockpiles of antivirals, antibiotics, consumables and personal protection equipment for front line health and social care staff. The different products in the stockpile are aimed to be sufficient to respond to withstand the "Reasonable Worst Case" (RWC) pandemic scenario including a clinical attack rate of 50%, over a 15-week period and a single wave pandemic.</p> <p>This MA requests the Minister to agree actions that will enable the pandemic stockpile to be issued as necessary and appropriate in responding to the Coronavirus outbreak.</p>
<b>Timing</b>	The Minister should consider this advice as soon as possible. Action is required urgently.
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>The Minister is asked to agree:</p> <p>Although a pandemic has not yet been declared agreement is sought from the Minister to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Release some PPE to GPs in Wales as soon as possible</li><li>2. Release other stock for use by the NHS and social care services when required</li><li>3. Being kept informed of the need to use contingency stockpiles should that be necessary</li></ol>
<b>Decision report</b>	This decision does not require a Decision Report.

**Scotland** has already issued Type 11 facemasks from the pandemic stockpile to GPs

**NHS England** is moving now to issue from its pandemic stockpile in an initial push of PPE to General Practice at no cost to practices and deliveries will commence before the end of this week.

One pack per practice will include: gloves, aprons and fluid repellent masks.

**Northern Ireland** is moving to issue PPE to GPs to include aprons, gloves and fluid resistant masks. This is being done with the proviso that it can be called it back should it not be required or used. This stock will also have to be protected for use in suspected COVID-19 cases only

**Wales** has a COVID 19 Health Countermeasures Group in place, chaired by the Health Emergency Planning Adviser, which includes key officials from Shared Services Procurement, pharmacy and infection control expertise. This Group is developing arrangements to distribute pandemic stock to health and social care services when necessary. Oversight and accountability for this work now come under the Health & Social Services Planning & Response Group, chaired by Samia Saeed-Edmonds, Planning Programme Director.

Through this structure, Shared Services is in the process of making up the distribution boxes of PPE kit for the 640 primary care GP sites in Wales, each box will consist of:

- 3 x Boxes Medium Gloves (100 pairs per box)
- 2 x Rolls of Plastic Aprons (200 per roll)
- 6 x Boxes Face Masks Type iiR (50 per box)

The makeup of the boxes will be completed by Sunday, and plans are in place to commence distribution to practices across Wales commencing Monday morning, if this is necessary and with the Minister's agreement.

As well as concern about GP's PPE, concern is developing about the ability of dentists and pharmacists in Wales to access facemasks. The Health Countermeasures Group is monitoring the situation and will be considering options in the event of routine stocks becoming unavailable.