

Subject: RE: PPE issues - including facemasks
Date: Friday 3 April 2020 at 11:24:52 British Summer Time
From: [redacted] NR
To: Vic Rayner, Liz Jones, [redacted] NR
CC: [redacted] NR
Attachments: image002.png, image003.png

Hi Vic and apologies, in these very busy times I have been without e-mail since Wednesday lunch.

My colleague [redacted] NR copied will be able to share an e-mail including yourself and the offer, together with the details of the 7 wholesalers we are dealing with, copy them in on the e-mail and happy for yourself/suppliers to link up directly.

Kind regards

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From: Vic Rayner <vic.rayner@nationalcareforum.org.uk>
Sent: 01 April 2020 17:29
To: [redacted] NR @dhsc.gov.uk; Liz Jones <liz.jones@nationalcareforum.org.uk>
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Subject: RE: PPE issues - including facemasks

[redacted] NR – thanks for following up on these issues

We are getting quite a few 'leads' through from people who have PPE and want it to go to the care home sector and trying to find distribution routes through. Is that something you or a colleague are picking up and I could pass them on? Let me know. Thanks. Vic.

Vic Rayner, Executive Director, National Care Forum

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COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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FFP3. This is unacceptable and very worrying. How we are expected to protect our staff when we do have a case. We have ordered the FFP3 masks from a supplier and are still waiting for a delivery as they do not have them in stock."

NHS Requisitioning Stock

Many of our members report that their suppliers have stopped delivering PPE to them or have had their deliveries diverted to the NHS. Seems that the NHS Supply chain is requisitioning any supplies left.

"When we tried to place orders with our usual suppliers for sanitiser (and some other products) we were told they weren't taking orders because everything has been requisitioned for the NHS."

"Our suppliers have told us that all four major manufacturers/wholesalers have been barred from supplying to anyone but the NHS."

"A number of items, e.g. thermometers are completely unavailable. These are crucial pieces of equipment for services which remain open and have potential drop in services. The bottom line is that Google has become our procurement source."

Housing Association that provide care & Extra Care settings

Many housing associations that provide elements of care & Extra care settings are being told by the helpline they are not eligible – despite there being cases in some of these organisations.

"Are you intending to prioritise supporting housing in any real way? Other than what local councils are doing regarding food deliveries. We also operate three sites of very supported housing so we can't get sanitiser for them either and they are all in the very vulnerable group with the majority being over 75 and frail. So while our social care operation is the highest priority we also believe our supported housing is serving a very vulnerable group also."

Profiteering

PPE and cleaning equipment have seen massive hikes in price. Some members reporting 1000% price rises in the last 2 weeks.

"I have been advised by a colleague that we have now found some for £1 per mask, but we could not financially sustain the cost of this for very long."

"we have stocks but supplies are running low. Masks are on sale at £3 each ! I have approached the CCG and local authority for help. No response."

Extreme Measures to source PPE

A number of providers are resorting to trying to source PPE from construction industry and other areas at significant expense:

"At present we have managed to beg face masks from our maintenance team (75 units), we have some being delivered this week but nowhere enough to meet the needs of just the people that we are caring for that are showing signs of the virus, we have chased for updates from PHE on when we can expect the delivery of items but they can't say, and we have contract Adult Social Care in our areas and they have not come back on what they can do or where we can get stock from. I had a team of 6 last week searching everywhere from medical suppliers to hard wear and construction to office suppliers, no luck anywhere! Masks are not the only thing that we are running low on but this is the one that staff are most concerned about. We now have a large development company contacting all of their construction trades to see if they can loan / provide us with some!!"