

To: SoS

From: Jonathan Marron

Date: 12 April 2020

Cc: PS(P)

Perm Sec

CMO

+ email copy list

Preparing Guidance in case of failure of supply of Gowns

1. CMO chaired a meeting of the UK CMOs, CNOs, and clinical leaders from NHSE/I and PHE this afternoon to consider guidance to the service on the possible options in case of a failure to supply gowns. This note briefs you on the discussion.
2. As you know the supply of gowns is extremely precarious. Immediate needs are being met but there are very limited stocks.
3. The meeting concluded:
 - i. A communication to the NHS should be prepared setting out the options in case of failure of supply of gowns. The options to be included are:
 - Use of fluid resistant gowns for AGP
 - Use of non fluid resistant gowns and a plastic apron
 - Use of alternative protective clothing (eg lab coats) and a plastic apron
 - Apron and use of hand/forearm washing
 - ii. If possible the communication should be framed as options for managing stock failures on a range of products to reduce the negative reaction a gown specific communication is likely to attract.
 - iii. We should engage the professions and colleges in the development of the communication. We are planning to do this on Bank Holiday Monday.
 - iv. A decision on when to issue the guidance would be taken after further discussions on whether mutual aid was possible across the 4 nations. We are pursuing mutual aid discussions at official level
4. I recommend that you:
 - i. Note the position and our intention to develop options in the event of failure of supply including discussions with the professions.
 - ii. Consider whether you wish to talk to your Ministerial colleagues in the DAs about the current position, the potential options and the possibility of mutual aid.

Jonathan Marron

[Type here]

Official – sensitive

[Type here]