

NR said pharmacists are key players in the response to COVID-19 and therefore WG should value their contribution and be mindful to supply them with PPE. For years people have been encouraged to use community pharmacies instead of GPs and at present only GPs who are also independent contractors are receiving PPE packs. NR suggested that pharmacists could augment the 1m rule to assess the people in which they have contact with. MR suggested that if a decision is made to issue pharmacies with PPE then it should be issued in the same way as GPs.

DG advised the need to prepare to issue stock to pharmacy and noted Northern Ireland were currently proposing to issue a box of 50 masks to their pharmacists. MR advised that England has made Type IIR masks available to pharmacists through wholesalers, however England wholesalers have been instructed not issue masks to Welsh pharmacists. NR said that Andrew Evans had spoken to NR to confirm whether pharmacies in Wales could order stock from the English wholesalers.

ACTION NR to ascertain with NR whether Welsh Pharmacists can order Type IIR masks from the English wholesalers. If these are not available then we would need to move quickly to supply PPE to our pharmacists

NR asked why pharmacists needed masks if 1-2m restricted consultations could be undertaken. NR suggested that if guidance states that pharmacists should wear a mask then we should supply them

ACTION NR to confirm the position regarding the use of masks by dentists and to ascertain what PPE Dentists, Pharmacists and GPs are supposed to have set out in the guidance

MR advised that England had put controls on what could be ordered by pharmacists via the wholesalers

ACTION - MR to ascertain what the controls are in England. DG to ascertain what Scotland and Ireland are planning to do.

ACTION – DG to sight the Minister on current thinking around supplying specific PPE to pharmacists in Wales so that if we needed to move we had authority to do so.

ACTION – KW/DG to review the stock position following the conclusion of PPE distribution to GPs

MR advised the following in regard to respirators:

- Some FFP3s have issued from the PIPP Stockpile (from the 100,000 stock supplied by England) to HBs as part of business as usual arrangements and the HBs have been charged
- Apart from the 100,000 respirators supplied by England, currently no in date FFP3 respirators are available in the stockpile.
- English contract for JIC/JIT production of respirators currently with a French company Valmy. 6.9 million masks ordered, but been advised by the company that they can only supply 130,000 and may take up to a year to deliver the rest. Production of 130,000 to commence w/c 16th March. However be mindful that the French president has advised that France will not be exporting, therefore until the stock arrives in the UK the position remains fluid.
- MEDLINE masks - PHE developing FFP3 strategy and immediate authorisation will be required by DAs to enable England to release the MEDLINE masks from their PIPP stockpile at a cost. These are the only products in the UK which are in date and will require relabelling.
- 3M SMTL, tested the Welsh stockpile 3M masks but have not completed the age testing process. Testing would take a couple of weeks to complete. MEDLINE are being procured to test England's 3M respirators and will also test Welsh stock. Wales will request age testing for 6-12 months rather than 3 years. SMTL early indication that there are no issues with re-dating the 3M's in stock in Wales but they will need to be relabelled.
- Any in-date stock, should be geographically split

DG advised that England holds approx. 8 Million MEDLINE respirators and a Barnett share will hopefully be provided to Wales and that 3M model were the most familiar stock in Wales. Fit testing will be required around MEDLINE stock.