



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Wendy Chamberlain MSP

Our ref: 202000030923
May 2020

Thank you for your letter of 8th April on behalf of your constituent concerning Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the ambulance service during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I appreciate your constituent concern's. Our national expert body, Health Protection Scotland (HPS), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England published updated PPE guidance in relation to COVID-19 on Thursday 2 April. The revised guidance is available [here](#).

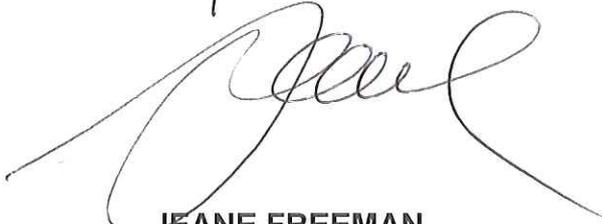
The guidance outlines what type of PPE frontline health and social care workers should be wearing in different settings and scenarios. Importantly, the updates reflect the fact that COVID-19 is now widespread in the community, recognising our health professionals will see people with the virus, some of who will not have symptoms yet. You will wish to note the addition of tables in the guidance, which explain the PPE required for different common clinical and care scenarios. With [Table 3](#) summarises recommended PPE for ambulance staff, paramedics and pharmacists.

The safety of patients and staff remains the key priority for Scottish Government and the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). The Service together with all Health Boards are following clear advice and guidelines from Health Protection Scotland. To aid the distribution of PPE across the country and to ensure local stock levels are regularly replenished in a timely manner the SAS has acquired an additional 12 support vehicles.

In relation to your query about the alignment of this PPE guidance to WHO and Resuscitation Council guidance, it might be helpful to explain that the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG) has undertaken an evidence review to consider whether chest compressions and defibrillation are associated with an increased risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections. NERVTAG have confirmed that chest compressions and defibrillation are not classed as aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) individually. The PPE guidance reflects this NERVTAG advice.

However, it is paramount that frontline healthcare professionals are supported to find a solution to ensure both their own safety and that of their patients. It is logical to consider CPR as a continuous process which often results in the high-risk aerosol generating procedure of airway management. In this case, precautions should be taken and the healthcare professional should be supported by their organisation to make a professional judgement whether to wear Level 3 PPE based on the likely outcome of CPR which would include FFP3 face mask, long-sleeved gown, gloves and eye protection.

I hope that you find this information helpful and please pass on my thanks to your constituent for their service in the delivery of health and social care during this unprecedented time of need.

Kind regards

JEANE FREEMAN

Your Reference: PPE Guidance

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

aol.com

Dear Jeane,

Can you please clarify why the guidelines from Health Protection Scotland for the use of PPE differs from the guidance from WHO.

3 weeks ago at work we dealt with a patient with regular flu and followed local guidelines and wore gowns, gloves and masks while undertaking a diagnostic procedure (not AGP). Now we are expected to just wear a thin apron and mask for a patient with the deadly Covid 19 infection.

Please can you clarify?

Regards

[REDACTED]

Specialist Radiographer



Wendy Chamberlain MP

Member of Parliament for North East Fife

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Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

8 April 2020

Dear Jeane,

I have recently been contacted by a healthcare worker who works in the ambulance service regarding personal protective equipment.

According to current clinical guidance, it is acceptable for PPE not to be used when attending patients without COVID-19 symptoms. I would be grateful if you could set out the rationale for this guidance in further detail. It has been estimated that a significant minority of those infected will be asymptomatic: given the scale of the disease that will encompass a large number of people. It seems to me that risk would be reduced by advising PPE to be worn for all interactions. Given the importance of our healthcare workers, it is vitally important that they are protected from potential encounters with people who are infected with COVID-19, symptomatic or not.

Second, I would be grateful if you could sent out why current PPE guidance is not aligned with WHO and Resuscitation Council guidance. A link to the latter guidance can be found here: <https://www.resus.org.uk/media/statements/resuscitation-council-uk-statements-on-covid-19-coronavirus-cpr-and-resuscitation/covid-healthcare-resources/>. It is obviously concerning that your guidance contravenes that issued by other authoritative bodies – especially when the standards in your guidance are lower. Healthcare workers are naturally worried that they are not being properly protected.

It is clear from my interactions with my constituents that many health and care workers are very concerned and anxious, both on account of their own health – but also, in selfless fashion, because they do not want to risk spreading the virus to others. My constituent is extremely concerned that paramedics are becoming superspreaders because of the current guidance.

I would be grateful if you could respond to the queries I have raised in this letter as

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soon as possible.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Chamberlain', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Wendy Chamberlain
Member of Parliament for North East Fife

Our Ref: WE1270

From: Waddell D (Daniel)
Sent: 13 June 2020 15:09
To: Waddell D (Daniel)
Subject: FW: 202000024989 - PPE
Attachments: FW: Email to Ralph Roberts re PPE -DISTRICT NURSES, HEALTH CENTRE STAFF;
Email to Jeane Freeman MSP re PPE.PDF; From Constituent re PPE.DOCX

Importance: High

From: redacted On Behalf Of Roberts, Ralph
Sent: 07 April 2020 14:13
To: redacted
Cc: Roberts, Ralph <Ralph.Roberts@borders.scot.nhs.uk>
Subject: RE: 202000024989 - PPE
Importance: High

Dear redacted

I refer to your request for information via Sam Whiting in relation to a query from John Lamont MP in relation to PPE

Please find attached a copy of a reply to Mr Lamont in relation to a similar enquiry (the original of which was also copied to Ms Freeman).

I believe the key messages within this response are equally valid in relation to this query from a GP. In particular:

- NHS Borders has and continues to comply with all National guidance on the supply and use of PPE
- The Scottish Government issued updated guidance on the use of PPE on the 3rd April and this was jointly agreed across the 4 countries and included input from a range of professional bodies. I understand it is understood this guidance is compatible with WHO advice
- Within the guidance it clearly sets out different levels of PPE for a range of patient scenarios. It is essential if we are to effectively manage overall supplies of PPE as well as keep colleagues and patients safe that all clinicians comply with this guidance
- NHS Borders has carried out an audit of PPE Stocks within our acute sector and are now extending this to Primary & Community services. We have also put in place a Community PPE advice line to support staff who work in the community
- Ultimately the provision of PPE for all our staff will depend on International supply chains

I trust this information is adequate to allow you to produce a response for Ms Freeman.

With best wishes

Ralph

#hello my name is...

Ralph Roberts
Chief Executive

From: redacted
Sent: 06 April 2020 11:23
To: redacted
Subject: 202000024989 - PPE

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Good morning,

I refer to the email below (see attachments) from the office of Mr John Lamont MP. I would be grateful if this could be looked into as a matter of urgency and if you could provide me a response as soon as possible in order to allow us to respond to Mr Lamont.

Due to the time-sensitive nature of the requests we are receiving, the Cabinet Secretary would be very grateful for a response by **Tuesday 7 April**.

Many thanks,

redacted

PPE Ministerial Correspondence Team
Health Performance and Delivery Directorate
Scottish Government

From: LAMONT, John <john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 28 March 2020 17:43
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Email to Jeane Freeman MSP re PPE

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Your Reference: PPE for district nurses

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] loud.com

I'm watching the daily questions. On the issue on PPE in the community - District Nursing. Why are we not following WHO guidelines on PPE. The aprons being issues are small, cheap and hardly tie properly. Why are we not being issued with gowns which prevents our uniforms being contaminated which in turn would prevent us carrying Covid 19 to other patients.

This is a serious concern in community as we cannot change in between patients and by nature of our jobs are in and out our cars and vulnerable patients who are shielding.

Following infection control and washing is important but prevention of infection is paramount.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

cloud.com

Our Reference: 202000031329

Your Reference: PPE for district nurses

13 May 2020

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 8 April 2020 to the Scottish Government about the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to district nurses. As a Policy Officer within the Chief Nursing Officer Directorate at the Scottish Government, I have been asked to respond.

I understand your concern over the supply of PPE given the current situation. Our national expert body, Health Protection Scotland (HPS), jointly with the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England published updated PPE guidance in relation to Covid-19 on Thursday 2 April 2020. The revised guidance is available [here](#).

You will see that new tables have been added to the guidance, which clearly explain the PPE required for different and common clinical care scenarios. [Table 2](#) refers to community settings.

The guidance importantly includes [detailed advice](#) around risk assessing use of PPE, including aprons, gowns, Fluid-Resistant Surgical Masks and eye protection, in a range of different clinical and care scenarios. The guidance also asks that organisations themselves undertake risk assessments to ensure that they provide the correct PPE for the safety of their staff.

With regard to your query on why NHS Scotland is not following World Health Organisation (WHO) PPE guidance. The WHO guidance is broadly aligned to UK-wide guidance, with a similar rationale in advocating the use of PPE in health and social care settings and requiring the correct use of PPE in the correct setting. However, in recognition of the fact that there is some evidence of sustained

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transmission of Covid-19, the UK-wide guidance also includes additional considerations which are overarching of standard HPS precautions. Pertinent to health and social care staff in any setting, these additional considerations allow the care giver to decide PPE based on their assessment of risk from the patient to themselves.

The Scottish Government has also published National Clinical Guidance for Nursing and AHP Community Health Staff during the Covid-19 Pandemic. If you haven't seen this it can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-nursing-and-community-health-staff-guidance>

I hope that this information is helpful provides reassurance on the use of PPE. The Scottish Government sincerely thanks you for supporting the delivery of health care during this time of unprecedented need.

Yours sincerely




CNO : Nursing and Midwifery Policy Unit

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