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By Email

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Your Ref
Our Ref PC/NPA/2020-12-10

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Dear Colleague

I thought it would be helpful to provide some communication around FFP3 masks and face fitting and I have shared this information with the Chief Dental Officer. National Procurement have delivered more than half a billion pieces of PPE since the start of the pandemic. We are now spending more than £1.3 million per week on PPE for dental practices across Scotland. From a standing start we have put in place mechanisms to deliver to the door of more than 70% of the 1,100 dental practices in Scotland. We are also moving to online ordering across the Boards early next year with Lothian and Ayrshire and Arran having online access already.

The sheer scope and ambition of this endeavour and the need to upscale every process across Scotland is a challenge for our team at National Procurement. The team deal with every provider in our health and social care family across Scotland. We inevitably don't always get it right, but we have mechanisms to review and respond when we don't get it right and you can be assured we will try and sort it as quickly as we can.

PPE deliveries are being made on a regular basis to dental practices and we have included stock for the festive public holidays too, this is resilience stock just in case winter weather delays future deliveries. You may find it helpful if you purchase additional PPE beyond what we have delivered to ensure you have spare PPE capacity over the winter.

As with many other healthcare providers, dental staff across the NHS are using the 3M 1863 respirators to deliver care which may involve the production of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs). The validation of this mask runs out at the end of March 2021 and the territorial Boards are in the process of moving staff over to alternative FFP3 masks.

National Procurement have on behalf of the NHS in Scotland have secured an enormous number of new FFP3 masks and one supplier is a company based in Scotland. The Alpha Solway H, Alpha Solway HX and Alpha Solway + FFP3 masks are now available to every Board in Scotland and the staff are being face fitted to these new masks. The ongoing supply of these masks ensures we have ample stock to ensure support of AGPs in primary care dental practices. The responsibility for the process of face fitting lies with the territorial Boards; as are the arrangements for the delivery of the face fitting process.



Chair Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Colin Sinclair

NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.

Two equally accurate methods are available of ensuring that an FFP3 mask fits are available to Boards, the use of a hood and chemicals or a Portacount machine. Each method though equally reliable has advantages and disadvantages. All Boards have access to these machines and some Boards are currently purchasing additional machines to augment their ongoing capacity to face fit staff.

Whilst the success rate of the face fitting with Alpha Solway H series remains high we are more focussed in ensuring as many staff are successfully face fitted to any available FFP3 mask as a measure of success rather than rather just a single mask type. The availability of a range of FFP3 masks in plentiful supply in all Boards should give a degree of reassurance that as many staff as possible will find an appropriate FFP3 mask. Inevitably some staff will not fit any mask and we are exploring options available.

National Procurement are confident in the ongoing supply of:

- Alpha Solway – H Series
- Alpha Solway – AlphaSol+
- Alpha Solway – HX Series (launch end of Dec)
- 3M – 1863+
- 3M – 9332+
- 3M – 9330+
- 3M – 1873V+


National Procurement have good stock but have questions marks over ongoing supply of:

- Alpha Solway – 3030V (3030V+)
- Alpha Solway – S3V
- Honeywell – SuperOne
- Honeywell – 4000 Series
- 3M – 8833

This is currently giving 12 masks to fit to if needed. The guidance is to test on the top 6 first.

I hope this delivers the information you require to provide a degree of reassurance that National Procurement are working tirelessly to help you deliver the dental care for your patients.

Yours sincerely


PAUL CUSHLEY
Director of Dentistry