



## COVID-19

Dear all

Please find below some information regarding NHS Supply Chain's response to Covid-19, I would be most grateful if you could please cascade through to your colleagues as appropriate.

We're working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement, and Public Health England to help to ensure the continuity of supply of products into the NHS.

On 16 March 2020, we launched a daily webinar series to trusts. These webinars will continue to run for the foreseeable future, as we continue to update on products, processes and activity to support the current COVID-19 response. Following NHS trust feedback, our daily webinars will now take place at 3pm, Monday to Friday. This is a single link that will register you for the series.

[Registration Link: Daily COVID-19 Webinars](#)

A page listing the most frequently asked webinar questions relating to the COVID-19 response is available on our: <https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/covid19/faqs/>

### Key Messages

- As of today a dedicated PPE supply channel has been established with Clipper Logistics. Acute, Mental Health and Community Trusts will receive a pushed out palletised delivery of PPE products to main delivery points, the allocation is being done based on Covid-19 positive cases and multi-agency prioritisation. For further information visit <https://www.ppe-dedicated-supply-channel.co.uk/>
- We would like to ask our Trust colleagues not to compete with the national model for PPE stocks and any other products and to work in the interests for the whole NHS. If colleagues have any PPE opportunities presented by suppliers please can they provide these into the new PPE cell at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-from-business> for them to execute so that the products can come into the national supply chain and be distributed in accordance with national guidance.
- A customer consultation group has been established to give a view on possible operational changes that will build capacity and resilience for the NHS Supply Chain stocked route. The group has endorsed the 400 out of 500 stationery lines being stopped with further options in discussion.
- The high volume of orders we are currently receiving is placing operational pressures on our service capability, around the availability and utilisation of our Roll Cages. There are two issues in particular:
  1. Rather than all cages being taken to wards and emptied for our retrieval within 48 hours, large numbers are being held in hospital stores. These need to be released urgently and all cages returned within 48 hours of goods being received.

2. Our cages continue to be utilised by trust employees or contractors for movement of used bed linen. The cages are then collected by laundry operators to end up in their network from which it is difficult to retrieve them. **Given the heightened risk of cross contamination from COVID-19 this practice needs to cease immediately.** Only dedicated cages from laundry operators should be used for bed linen or laundry products. To avoid cage shortages which will impact upon our service delivery, we need trusts to release cages back to us. Please work with your Customer Services Advisor to review your position and arrange return of any outstanding roll cages.
- Operations will be working 24/7 for the foreseeable future. Deliveries will be as normal for the Easter Weekend. Weekend delivery windows are 6am – 10pm, delivery manifests will be available via the daily update. Trusts are asked to support the push model by accepting what is delivered, please find a way to accept them and share across your local system.
  - Please provide a nominated 24/7 delivery contact if you have not already done so, please use the webform on the website.
  - Can you help the new National PPE Procurement Team? A new national team is procuring PPE for the whole NHS. If you understand how to procure, identify new supply sources, or work with manufacturers to design and manufacture PPE products, could you help support this national effort? If you can commit some time for the next 2 – 3 months, even if only part time, we'd be keen to hear from you. To volunteer or find out more, please contact [Mujahir.Rahman@supplychain.nhs.uk](mailto:Mujahir.Rahman@supplychain.nhs.uk)

Below is a link to further information on our Website:

<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/covid19/>

Take care of yourselves

Kindest regards

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