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To:
Chief Executives
Chief Nurses
Medical Directors

24 April 2020

Dear colleague

FIT TESTING PPE FACE MASKS

We are writing to emphasise the importance of proper fit testing of disposable sessional PPE face masks (such as FFP3 masks). Fit checking should be performed every time a mask is donned but it is not a substitute for the fit testing of different masks.

Personal protective equipment protects the person using it, and the requirement to fit test cannot be downgraded as this would undermine the regulatory requirements and established expectations of HSE guidance.

HSE guidance on fit testing can be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/face-mask-ppe-rpe-coronavirus.htm>

A list of external accredited fit testers (who can also provide training for additional fit testers within your organisation) is available here: <https://www.fit2fit.org/>

The national PPE supply channel can be found here: <https://www.ppe-dedicated-supply-channel.co.uk/>

Yours sincerely,



Professor Stephen Powis
National Medical Director
NHS England and NHS Improvement



Ruth May
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