

# **LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUMS – SUPPLY AND STORAGE OF RESERVE PPE STOCKS**

## **1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT OF INTENT**

- 1.1 We understand that Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) are considering what arrangements need to be in place locally to ensure resilience in the face of the continuing Covid-19 pressures, and the risk of any future increase in infection rates.
- 1.2 This document contains important information regarding the storage and release of PPE from LRF-managed PPE stockpiles provided by DHSC to service providers, following the cessation of regular deliveries of PPE to LRFs for onward distribution during the COVID-19 response.
- 1.3 The purpose of these local PPE stockpiles is to improve preparedness for further local and national spikes in demand as a result of Covid-19.

## **2. STORAGE OF PPE**

- 2.1 The LRF will store the PPE Products from DHSC stock at temperatures specified by the manufacturer. If the storage temperature range is not specified by the manufacturer of the Products, the LRF will store the Products at a temperature of between +8°C and +25°C.
- 2.2 Following any DHSC PPE delivery for the creation of local LRF stockpile, the LRF must inspect the PPE for damage and report any faults to the PPE customer service line at [productqueries@ppeenquiries.com](mailto:productqueries@ppeenquiries.com), or report it via the online webform ([www.ppe-dedicated-supply-channel.co.uk/product-issues](http://www.ppe-dedicated-supply-channel.co.uk/product-issues)). Once the PPE Products have been inspected for quality, the LRF should ensure the Products are stored in a manner that does not cause damage or speed up natural deterioration.
- 2.3 Products delivered in a sterile state must be packed in a non-reusable pack and/or according to appropriate procedures to ensure that they are sterile when placed on the market and remain sterile until the protective packaging is damaged or opened.
- 2.4 In relation to the storage facilities for the Products, the LRF should maintain the facilities:
  - In accordance with safe and efficient warehousing practices, including minimising the risks of damage or contamination of the products stored; and
  - To the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene.
- 2.5 When distributing PPE, items with the soonest expiry date should be allocated first.
- 2.6 Further guidance and information on the deployment and maintenance (preventive maintenance and performance assurance) of PPE can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-medical-devices>

## **3. CONDITIONS FOR RELEASING ITEMS FROM COVID-19 PPE STOCKPILE PROVIDED BY DHSC:**

- 3.1 An LRF will activate their DHSC Covid-19 PPE stockpile and release PPE items to service providers in the following circumstances:

- 1) In the case of a local spike in Covid-19 infections.
- 2) Demonstrable evidence that a service provider is unable to access their normal wholesale route or to receive sufficient PPE supply via the PPE Portal (if they are eligible)
- 3) In the unlikely event of local PPE shortages, PPE supply will be prioritised based on Covid-19 clinical risk.

#### **4. PROCESS FOR REQUESTING FURTHER EMERGENCY DROPS FROM DHSC:**

- 4.1 DHSC will retain the capacity to respond in the event of local supply disruptions at a time of increased demand; if any locality faces a serious shortage of PPE due to a local spike in Covid-19 infections or Covid-19 mortality as defined in section 3, or in case of temporary failure of other distribution routes.
- 4.2 To arrange re-supply of PPE in a Covid-19 emergency that meets conditions outlined above, any LRF can contact [ppe-requests@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:ppe-requests@dhsc.gov.uk) and request re-supply (this mailbox is monitored during working hours only).
- 4.3 DHSC will aim to re-supply the LRFs whose circumstances meet conditions outlined in Section 3 within 72 working hours.

#### **5. PROCESS FOR ASCERTAINING ITEM QUALITY OR SAFETY:**

- 5.1 If you have concerns about the suitability of delivered products, please contact the PPE Customer Service Team via 0800 876 6802. This team will answer your query or escalate to HSE or MHRA as necessary.