

# COVID-19 Notice

Monday 06 April 2020



## **PPE Products with out-of-date ‘use by/expiration’ dates or relabelled ‘use by/expiration’ dates**

Please be assured that ensuring that you have the adequate PPE and an appropriate level of protection is a top priority for the Senior Management Team. We are complying fully with all aspects of nationally issued PPE guidance and will continue to do so. The safety of you, your family and your patients is paramount.

We have been made aware that there may be a number of products which have out-of-date ‘use by/expiration’ dates or have relabelled ‘use by/expiration’ dates and we want to offer an explanation for this. PPE has been released from the regional emergency stockpile to ensure supplies across all Trusts within Northern Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic and we understand similar actions may be taken throughout the UK.

The Department of Health has assured that these products being issued have passed stringent tests that demonstrate they are safe. The PPE is exposed to extreme conditions for prolonged periods, to see how the product deteriorates. All that are not up to standard are destroyed and not distributed to trusts. The DoH have been working with independent test facilities and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who, after being provided with scientific evidence, were content with our assessment that these are safe to use by NHS staff.

We hope this clarifies the current position, we appreciate how important it is for you to have confidence in the PPE that you are expected to use. We also understand how difficult a time this is for everyone and we want to thank you all for everything you are doing every day to provide care to our patients