

COVID-19 Notice

Thursday 02 April 2020



Key Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) COVID-19 Memo

On Thursday the 19 March 2020 Michael Bloomfield, the NIAS Chief Executive released a video message during which he highlighted that “every effort to protect the health and wellbeing of staff” during this current pandemic caused by COVID – 19.

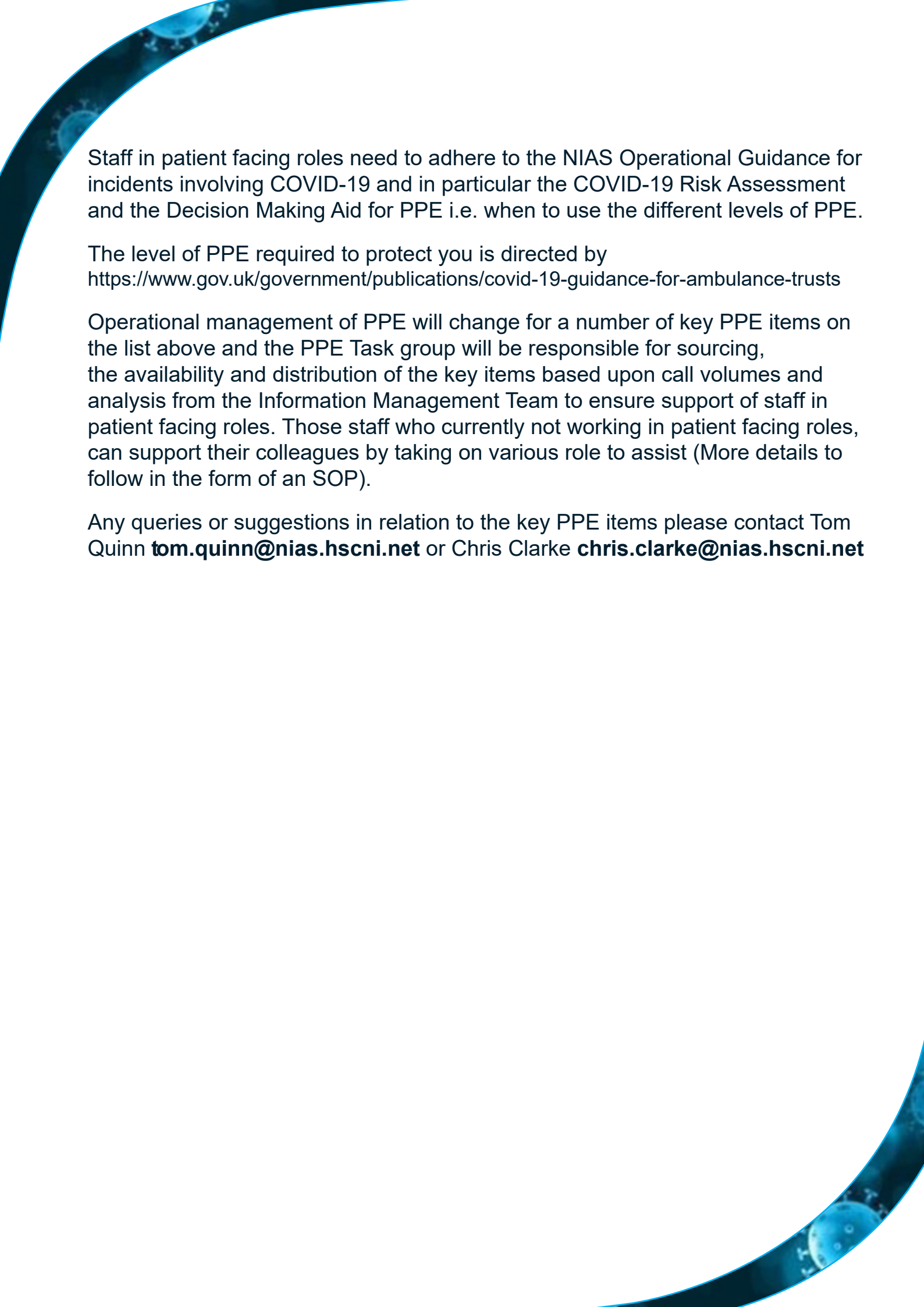
A NIAS PPE was been established to assist the Stores Department to identify the availability, process, distribution and security of Key PPE items to protect staff and patients.

This is against the backdrop of unprecedented global demand on the supply chain, combined with a manufacturing slowdown in affected countries, especially China which manufactures a large amount of PPE. The Government, NHS Supply Chain, and the NHS are doing everything to work with industry to secure additional supplies and manufacture further PPE.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/guidance-supply-use-of-ppe/>

In a letter issued on 28th March the Chief Medical and Nursing Officer advised that they were confident that every part of the health and care system that needs PPE will be supplied in good time with adequate stock.

Richard Pengelly, the Permanent Secretary of Health stated the “Ensuring the safety of staff who are dealing with COVID-19 patients is a priority. Our focus is on providing supplies for staff in front line services to be used in line with clinical and scientific evidence. To that end, it is essential that PPE products are used in line with advice and that supplies are not over-ordered, stockpiled or wasted. Constant vigilance will be needed across the HSC to support this and to ensure that supplies of PPE are available for the staff who are most likely to be dealing with patients with a positive diagnosis.”



Staff in patient facing roles need to adhere to the NIAS Operational Guidance for incidents involving COVID-19 and in particular the COVID-19 Risk Assessment and the Decision Making Aid for PPE i.e. when to use the different levels of PPE.

The level of PPE required to protect you is directed by

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-ambulance-trusts>

Operational management of PPE will change for a number of key PPE items on the list above and the PPE Task group will be responsible for sourcing, the availability and distribution of the key items based upon call volumes and analysis from the Information Management Team to ensure support of staff in patient facing roles. Those staff who currently not working in patient facing roles, can support their colleagues by taking on various role to assist (More details to follow in the form of an SOP).

Any queries or suggestions in relation to the key PPE items please contact Tom Quinn tom.quinn@nias.hscni.net or Chris Clarke chris.clarke@nias.hscni.net