



To:

Chief Executives NHS Scotland  
Chairs NHS Scotland  
Workforce Senior Leadership Group  
HR Directors  
National Staffside Representatives  
Medical Directors  
Nursing Directors  
Employee Directors  
Chief Officers (NHS Boards and Local  
Authorities)  
Chief Social Work Officers  
Chief Officers H&SCP  
Local Authority Chief Executives  
Care Inspectorate H&SCP  
Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)  
Scottish Care  
Coalition of Care and Support  
Funded Health and Social Care Partners

1 April 2020

## **Forthcoming PPE guidance**

Colleagues

We are writing to you to make you aware that revised Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance will be issued tomorrow via the COVID-19 guidance pages on the Health Protection Scotland (HPS) website. This guidance has been produced on a UK four nation basis, with input from Royal Colleges and expert scientific groups.

We will be writing to you again tomorrow to outline the key changes to the guidance, however, ahead of publication, wanted to make you aware now that this will mean some changes to the PPE that health and social care workers across Scotland will be advised to wear in different settings and scenarios when caring for patients and residents. The updates will reflect the fact that COVID-19 is now widespread in the community, meaning health and social care workers are more likely to see patients with the virus, some of whom will not have symptoms yet.



We understand that you will have questions around what the guidance changes mean for the availability of PPE. You will be aware that new measures are being introduced to improve the distribution of PPE to health and social care staff and work continues as an absolute priority to source further PPE to ensure there is an appropriate supply for all our health and social care workforce.

We would be very grateful if Chief Executives and Chief Officers can share this information with relevant stakeholder groups for both health and social care, and please expect a further letter tomorrow following publication of the revised PPE guidance.



**PROFESSOR FIONA MCQUEEN**  
Chief Nursing Officer



**DR CATHERINE CALDERWOOD**  
Chief Medical Officer