

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Update 5

26th April 2020



Key Update:

Uniform laundering:
Concerns raised over contaminated staff uniforms.

150 additional powered hood respirators delivered throughout the Trust by supplies and 300 more are on order now.

Hack for reducing your apron blowing around!!!

Recent Frequently Asked Questions:

Is my uniform contaminated? What do I do about my contaminated uniform?

- PPE guidance is based around mitigating the risk of task being performed. Therefore, wearing the **correct** level PPE is expected to provide protection relative to the risks posed. If AGP's are not performed, there will be no aerosol to linger in the air and/or settle onto the back of uniforms. Unless performing AGP's, this renders the use of coveralls unnecessary.
- Whilst wearing an apron, the front part of the uniform that is likely to come into contact with the patient, the patient surrounding and/or cough droplets, will be covered. Entering an area where an infected person is does not automatically result in your uniform being contaminated.
- If there has been a breach of PPE or your uniform is otherwise contaminated you should change the uniform as soon as practical with the spare uniform that you keep available, as per standard practice. The contaminated uniform should be placed into a plastic bag e.g. laundry bag and taken home for washing on a 60 degree cycle minimum. Best practice is to wash uniform separately to personal items. (it is not recommended to put the red alginate bags in a domestic washing machine)
- Clean uniform should be worn everyday and best practice would be not to travel to and from work in uniform but especially wearing uniform outside of work for other reasons, such as shopping.

If I fail a fit test can I wear my own FFP3 mask?

- We have received requests regarding wearing of items such as different masks that staff have. We currently have sufficient stocks of various disposable FFP3 mask types. If you cannot pass a fit test with any of them then the option available is to wear one of the powered hood respirators that are accessible in your management area. There has recently been a further 150 powered hood units delivered throughout the Trust and 300 more are currently on order..
- Although some masks, along with other PPE donations, are adequate replacements for the items we have, the stance will currently remain that Trust issued items should be used whilst available. The assurance process and governance of items being used must remain stringent to ensure staff safety.

The Trust issued apron keeps blowing around, how do I stop it?

- The first point to raise regarding the aprons is that the Trust has persistently ordered a thicker type green aprons which have had better feedback than the thinner white type. However, these are not always available and sometimes the white apron may still be delivered.
- A novel idea has been raised by one area that should be of benefit to help reduce the movement of the aprons. A very simple quick process of clipping the apron into the press studs on the side pockets of your trousers will go a long way in preventing it blowing around. This may not sound perfect, but as we know, risk mitigation is rarely perfect, it is about using a collaboration of efforts to afford the best reduction in risk practically achievable.