



To: Directors of Social Services

20 March 2023

Covid-19: Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Social Care Settings

Dear Colleagues,

As you may already be aware, the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Social Services have decided to extend the funding for free provision of PPE to social care settings for a further three months to the end of June 2023.

Welsh Government began funding the provision of free PPE to the sector in March 2020. It was previously [announced](#) that funding was to be provided until the end of March 2023. The extension of a further three months enables time to consider options for the future in the context of the transition from pandemic to endemic and the reducing impact of Covid-19 on the health and care system.

Current guidance as to the correct use of PPE within social care settings is summarised in the [Social care approach to respiratory viruses: autumn and winter 2022 to 2023](#).

I am aware of the concern within the sector regarding the cessation of free provision of PPE. To aid consideration of future options the Welsh Government has asked NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) to develop potential approaches, and officials are also considering revised advice for care homes in light of the recent changes to the Public Health Wales infection and prevention control guidance. We are planning to be in a position to engage with you further on the proposed approach in early April.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support and assistance in PPE distribution and for your work in keeping our social care workers and the vulnerable people they care for as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Heaney CBE
Chief Social Care Officer for Wales