

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### PROTOCOL FOR PPE FOR UNPAID/INFORMAL CARERS

#### Unpaid/Informal Carers Accessing PPE:

In order to ensure that the PPE is being distributed appropriately to unpaid/informal carers, the PPE Hub at Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre will only be able to be accessed following the process below:

1. The carer should contact Carers Link on 0800 975 2131.
2. Carers Link will ascertain whether the Carer is known to the organisation and that the carer delivers unpaid personal care activities to the cared for person. Where the carer indicates that they are a 'paid' carer please direct them to their PA Employer/Take Ctrl.
3. Carers Link will confirm with the carer that the person they deliver personal care support to is, in the carer's opinion, experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or the person falls into the 'shielding' category. Has the 'cared for person' received a 'shielding' letter? (If the cared for person is experiencing symptoms or requires to 'shield' the provision may require to be prioritised).
4. Discussion should take place with the carer to ascertain whether the 'cared for person' has an underlying health condition (if the underlying health condition is one that puts the person at risk as per national guidelines they may be required to be prioritised).
5. Does the carer have a requirement to 'shield' because of their own health condition/s. If yes, carer will be required to wear full PPE including fluid resistant mask and should be directed to the guidance.
6. Does the carer carry out paid work outwith the home? (If yes, is the carer undertaking paid health or care work or work that involves a lot of contact with the general public? If yes, the carer may require to be prioritised).
7. If the carer deliver non-personal care support, they should be referred to the websites below in relation to social distancing and infection control.
8. If the carer, in their opinion, is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they should arrange alternative care for the 'cared for person'. If they do not have access to alternative care provision they should contact the Health and Social Care Partnership (0141 777 3000) to discuss further and arrange critical care cover where applicable.
9. Discussion will take place with the carer as to how the carer normally sources PPE when carrying out personal care tasks. Ascertain with the carer whether they have continued to try and source PPE as per normal routes. Carers should be encouraged to continue to access their current PPE providers for supplies before accessing the Hub.
10. Discussion will take place with the carer to ascertain approximately how much PPE the carer requires to use on a daily basis i.e. how many times per day does the carer assist the cared for person with personal care activities such as washing, dressing and taking them to the toilet.
11. Allocation of PPE will be based on one week's supply:

3 or 4 personal care interventions per day	50 masks
2 personal care interventions per day	25 masks
1 personal care intervention per day	10 masks

Each allocation of masks will be accompanied by one box of gloves and one roll/packet of aprons.

12. Carers Link will ascertain the age of the carer and the age of the 'cared for person' (anyone aged over 70 may be more at risk and may be required to be prioritised).
13. Where the carer is not known to Carers Link, they (Carers Link Team) will liaise with the HSCP to determine if the carer or cared for person is known to Social Work. This can be determined by contacting East Dunbartonshire Council (0141 777 3000) and speaking with the appropriate team. Carers Link can also liaise with Kelly Gainty, Adults and Community Care Support Worker on [Kelly.gainty@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.gainty@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)
14. Where the carer or cared for person is not known to any of the two organisations, Carers Link will determine during the conversation that the carer is undertaking personal care activities.
15. The carer will be recorded as requesting PPE and will be directed to the PPE Hub.
16. The carer will be allocated a unique reference number which they should provide when arriving at the Hub. The Hub will be aware of the quantity of PPE to be provided based on the reference number.
17. Where the carer is experiencing difficulties obtaining or picking up PPE, they will be directed to OPAL on 0141 438 2347 to ascertain if there is assistance available from the network of volunteers.
18. For verification purposes, the person who attends the Hub will be asked to provide identification when picking up PPE supplies.
19. Carers must be advised that they cannot stock pile PPE provided to them by the Hub.
20. In order to ensure appropriate allocation and monitoring of provision, the protocol must be followed each time the carer wishes to be allocated PPE supplies.

**Important Guidance Websites – it is important that you follow national guidance in relation to the use of PPE and infection control:**

- NHS Inform: [www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)
- Health Protection Scotland: [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/)
- Coronavirus Guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)
- NHS Covid-19 information in other languages: [www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/#](http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/#)
- Coronavirus and your mental wellbeing: [www.samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/self-help-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-and-your-mental-wellbeing](http://www.samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/self-help-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-and-your-mental-wellbeing)