

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**30 March 2020, 6.00pm**

You will be aware from the public health projections that we are expecting to experience a peak in demand within the next two weeks.

The impact of social distancing on these projections is not yet clear. It may make the epidemic curve lower in peak and longer in duration.

What is clear is that we need to work together to be as prepared as we can be to respond to this public health emergency for as long as is needed.

There has never been a time like this. We have had to rapidly change our ways of working. We have had to set up new services within a matter of days. We have had to socially distance ourselves and learn to engage with each other and with our patients virtually. Many of us have been called on to re-train and to come out of retirement.

You have all risen to this challenge. I know that staff are working long hours, often in difficult stressful situations, and many in roles that they do not normally do. We all know that this will continue for many more weeks so it is vitally important that we look after you and that you look after yourselves and each other.

One of the key ways that we do this is through protective equipment and I know that staff are anxious about PPE. On Friday, we had confirmation that the Scottish Government has released a further 1.5million face masks and are preparing to release further quantities in the coming days. They have also advised that arrangements are being made for the delivery of eight weeks' worth of PPE to all GP surgeries. This begins today and is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, we have set up a daily meeting involving senior procurement leads, with clinical support, to ensure that the supplies we receive are distributed in the right quantities, to the right people at the right time. A senior nurse has also been assigned to each site to co-ordinate supplies on the ground and ensure the supply chain is working well.

Further guidance on PPE is anticipated and this will be published as soon as it is received. In the meantime, I am grateful to the Infection Prevention and Control Team for the videos they have produced setting out the correct PPE requirements for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

As we continue to prepare, I am aware of many examples of teams going above and beyond in responding to this outbreak. One such team are the Clinical Physics Team, who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to convert almost one hundred anaesthetic machines into ventilators. My thanks go to them and to you all.

Thank you.