

Commercial Guidance on Sourcing PPE and Cleaning Products (for LAs & sector settings)

Good afternoon,

The DfE has developed extensive guidance for all settings across the education, childcare and children's social care sectors on how to respond to coronavirus (Covid-19). This includes guidance on the use of and access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning products as part of a system of controls for preventing the spread of the virus – see [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) guidance.

This note provides information to support settings with their responsibility to source their own PPE and cleaning products. It explains various sourcing options available in addition to those which may already be in place. As set out in the guidance, if education or childcare settings cannot obtain the PPE they need they should approach their local authority (LA). If children's homes, secure children's homes, residential special schools, or other children's social care settings have an unmet urgent need for PPE in order to operate safely, they should approach their local resilience forum (LRF).

The items of PPE which you may require are as follows:

- Masks (Type IIR fluid-resistant surgical masks or, for aerosol generating procedures only, FFP3 respirator masks)
- Disposable gloves
- Disposable plastic aprons
- Eye protection (for example a face visor or goggles)

In order to fully understand the product specifications and standards associated with various items of PPE and hand wash, we would suggest you look at [this guidance published by Cabinet Office \(CO\) and Department for Health and Social Care \(DHSC\) on gov.uk](#).

While we cannot guarantee supply through any of these, we have identified a number of organisations that have been working to develop resilient supply chains throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We would like to bring these procurement routes for sourcing PPE and cleaning products to bring to your attention:

- The [Crown Commercial Service \(CCS\) 'Safer Working Supplies' Portal](#). CCS have worked closely with DHSC and suppliers to put this government-led supply solution in place. We have assurance that the suppliers and products listed on this portal have met standards set out by DHSC and that this route does not detract any supply from medical settings.
- Public Sector Buying Organisations (PSBOs). Many of these organisations have pre-existing experience and relationships across our sector. We are aware that some of these organisations have e-catalogues offering PPE and cleaning products, including: [ESPO](#), [YPO](#), and [NEPO](#).

In addition, you may be aware that DHSC are operating an [online PPE ordering portal](#) as an emergency top-up route for GPs and small adult social care providers to obtain PPE when other routes fail to meet needs. DHSC are currently not expanding this portal further at this stage however we will update you if and when this changes.

Hopefully, this goes someway to helping you identify a procurement solution to meet your needs for PPE and cleaning products.

Kind Regards,

DfE Commercial Team