

PPE Portal Update

The PPE Portal has been tested with the sector and is now being rapidly scaled up nationally. As part of our national effort to ensure critical PPE continues to be delivered to those on the frontline, this phase of the roll-out will see small residential social care services (care homes with 24 beds or fewer), small domiciliary care providers (99 clients or fewer) and GPs invited to register on the portal.

This week, we have invited small care providers from Cumbria, Merseyside, Durham & Darlington, Cheshire, South Yorkshire, Cleveland, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, Lancashire and Kent Local Resilience Forums (LRF) to register on the portal. Other LRF areas will be invited over the next 2 weeks as the service ramps up.

We are focussing on small care providers because our data shows that, although they account for half of all care provision, they seem to be less likely to be registered with wholesalers. It's therefore important that we ensure that they have the option of quickly joining the portal should they need to.

Large social care providers aren't currently being invited to the portal as they are more likely to be registered with a wholesaler and we are tracking and supporting a number of wholesalers to support them through those business as usual routes.

There is currently no charge for PPE at the point of order through the portal. As the portal is acting as an emergency top-up route, health and care providers should use their business as usual routes first, which will include wholesalers, and then turn to the portal for additional supplies if needed.

Once invited, users will be able to place an order for PPE once per week. Small social care providers can order:

- **One combined pack**, containing 100 IIR masks, 400 aprons and 800 gloves (400 pairs), **per week** or up to this amount of separate items

These limits may change as demand, the PPE portal, and the wider distribution system for PPE develop over time. PPE ordered through the portal should arrive within 48 hours if the order is placed before 1pm. Orders placed after 1pm will be subject to an additional 24-hours.

Providers should continue to use existing suppliers for other vital equipment.

The PPE portal will act as a temporary solution for the period of the pandemic to help to ensure supply during the emergency.