



National Assets Supply Chain Communication

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Communication Workers Union
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Coronavirus Precautions & Hygiene – Non-Provision of Gloves and Sanitizer: In relation to Letter reference_E4/DJ/Imp

Dear Dave,

In response to your concerns around Non-Provision of Gloves and Sanitizer, I can confirm that this issue is naturally important to us and has been at the forefront of our activity over recent weeks. In response to the current requirement for additional items as per the WTLs and Communications we have purchased

- 336,200 Alcohol wipes between 11th February 2020 & 4th March 2020
- 182,500 pairs of gloves between 24th January 2020 & 4th March 2020

As we know there is now also a well-publicised national shortage of wipes and we unfortunately have now exhausted all our supplier's stocks of wipes.

Procurement are looking for alternative suppliers but as this is a national shortage I am sure you will appreciate that this is a nationwide position not a Royal Mail position. However, we are continuing to talk with our suppliers and waiting confirmation on back orders.

Currently we have a supply of gloves in stock. Our suppliers have advised they do not have the same concerns over glove supply, as they are not supplied from China. There are also other glove lines that we could move to if there was a shortage. At this point our suppliers are not envisaging supply running out. That being said we have seen high demand for small sizes which is affecting stocks and we are looking for confirmation on this and identifying if there is an alternative style or supplier.

With regards to Sanitising Gel & Dispensers the current advice from Group Health & Wellbeing and SHE Risk & Improvement is not to provide sanitising dispensers. It is far more effective and efficient to promote regular handwashing with soap and water as we are not a high-risk environment such as a hospital or care home where they are used as standard.



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Face Mask Requirements & Regulations. The World Health Organization [guidance](#) on when to use a mask says states that it is only beneficial to stop the spread of the virus for:-

- People who are ill, coughing and sneezing to reduce them from spreading the virus to others.
- People who are caring for, or in close contact with someone who is infected. People who are *healthy, only need to wear a mask if they are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection.*

RMG policy is not to issue face masks for protection during flu pandemics therefore we would not be issuing masks as PPE against Coronavirus as our people should not be at risk of close contact with an infected person, (defined as within 2 metres, for more than 15 minutes), even if they were delivering to their doorstep. They would need to take care when delivering to anyone who appeared ill to minimise their time on the doorstep and keep at a distance to avoid being coughed or sneezed on. They would not be caring for someone as part of their work role and we would hope that anyone infected with the virus would be isolated at home and not at work.

Further information on the use of face masks can be found on the [WHO website](#).

If you have any other concerns or question please don't hesitate to get in touch

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary".

Gary Yeo FdSc Logistics

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