

From: [IRIC \(NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND\)](#)
To: ["NHS Boards & Local Authorities"](#)
Subject: Information Message IM/2020/011 - Adverse incidents involving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Date: 05 June 2020 15:52:53

IRIC Incident Reporting &
Investigation Centre

Reference: IM/2020/011
Subject: Adverse incidents involving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

This information message is sent to draw the attention of Equipment Co-ordinators to information which may be relevant to the safety of equipment and facilities in NHS Boards and Local Authorities:

Adverse incidents involving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

IRIC has received incident reports in which the inner seal of FFP3 face masks detached from the mask. There are also indications that the shape of the nose seal on face masks can be adversely affected by long term storage. These are issues which can affect the protective function that PPE provides.

The Health & Safety Executive has advised that staff should conduct a pre-use fit-check each time they wear face masks. They should visually inspect the face mask to check the integrity of foam seals, straps, valves and nose clips as applicable and check that the mask is properly seated on the face.

On a more general note, BSI has warned of counterfeit PPE sold under fake certification. BSI recommends that, prior to purchasing any form of safety equipment supported by a certificate appearing to be issued by BSI, the certificate should be verified to ensure it is genuine [Click here](#).

Incidents and near misses involving PPE (including face masks, visors, gowns and gloves) should be reported to your local adverse event reporting and learning system and to [IRIC](#).

As the Equipment Co-ordinator for your organisation, we recommend that you assess whether or not to forward this information to managers and staff within your area of responsibility who might benefit from being aware of it.

If you received this message directly from IRIC, email us at nss.irc@nhs.scot or phone 0131 275 7575 quoting the IM reference number. Alternatively, if you have received this message from someone in your own organisation, please direct all enquiries to them and they will liaise with IRIC as required.

Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC)
Health Facilities Scotland
NHS National Services Scotland

Contact us:
IRIC Email nss.irc@nhs.scot
Helpline 0131 275 7575

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/health-facilities/incidents-and-alerts/report-an-incident/>

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