

**From:** IRIC (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND)

**Sent:** 05 June 2020 15:53

**To:** 'NHS Boards & Local Authorities <NHS-LA@scotland.uk.com>

**Subject:** Information Message IM/2020/011 - Adverse incidents involving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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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