

23 April 2020

COVID-19: Update

Supporting our members

The **Workforce** team has been supporting the recruitment of staff across the country for the Nightingale field hospitals, through its work with the Workforce Alliance. The team is continuing to work closely with both trusts and suppliers to keep them informed on the latest guidance and to ensure clinical staff can be onboarded as quickly as possible. The team have also been made aware of a supplier offering rapid and free DBS checks for staff, which has been included on our new [Offers from Suppliers](#) list.

The **Estates, Facilities and Professional Services** team have responded to recent media coverage suggesting there could be a spike in legal claims following the pandemic, by providing members with appropriate advice to help them minimise the risk of future legal challenges. This includes reminding trusts to document decisions and maintain audit trails in the usual way and to take a cautious approach if they are intending to rely on the new [PPN01/20](#) to directly award tenders for new products or services at this time. For more support, NHS LPP members can access the NHS Procurement in Partnership legal services framework for free, which includes a list of law firms specialising in healthcare law, NHS governance and other areas. Some legal firms are also offering complementary advice such a free webinar which is listed on our [Offers from Suppliers](#).

If you have recently received a letter from ISS - one of the suppliers of soft services such as facilities management, cleaning, catering and portering services - regarding price increases due to COVID-19 please be aware that this letter has been shared with NHS England and NHS Improvement who have advised that they will investigate, so there is no need to respond directly. We will update you further when we know more. If you receive similar requests from any other suppliers please email LPPEFPS@gstt.nhs.uk and we can coordinate a local/national response where appropriate.

The **Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Procurement** team are working with trusts and suppliers to assure access to medicines in high demand due to the pandemic. In particular, the team are working to ensure trusts across London have their allocations of neuromuscular blocking medicines used in the treatment of COVID-19, in line with the [alert](#) published at the end of last week by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).



Our work with suppliers

We have received almost 300 resilience and mitigation plans from suppliers and we will be doing another follow up to gather more this week. The plans are available to members by going to [my.lpp](#) and selecting the category ‘**COVID-19 supplier resilience plans**’.

Of these suppliers, NHS LPP also sought more information for members from [100 identified critical suppliers](#). More than 70 have responded with detailed answers, which can be found by going to [my.lpp](#) and selecting the category ‘**Critical Supplier Q&A**’.

We have also compiled a [useful list of contacts](#) giving information on where to signpost suppliers offering PPE, ventilators and other essential services. Please note that some information may change rapidly – our team will make every effort to ensure this list is kept as up to date as possible

Your questions answered

Our team have been supporting members and suppliers with answers to their questions. Answers to our latest questions are available to members on [my.lpp](#)

Coronavirus guidance

Latest public information and advice on COVID-19 from:

- [NHS website](#)
- [GOV.UK](#)

Get in touch

Please continue to reach out to your regular contact in NHS LPP, however, if you do not receive a response please refer to our updated [contact list](#) or please email customer@lpp.nhs.uk This inbox will be monitored around the clock to ensure we continue to receive your enquiries and maintain our high standard of service. If you would like to give feedback on this bulletin or make suggestions for future updates please contact customer@lpp.nhs.uk. If you are not yet a NHS LPP member and wish to hear more contact us at customer@lpp.nhs.uk. NHS LPP is on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

