

10 December 2020 (1600 hrs)

Important information for all *General Practice, Community Pharmacy and Urgent Care teams*
- Please share this with everyone in your team -

Changes to distribution of PPE supporting COVID response

You may remember a while ago, the Ministry of Health proposed taking over supply of PPE to primary care. We have been negotiating with them during this time with the objective that CPRG continues to support the PPE distribution from a local Canterbury 'Hub'.

Despite our best efforts, the Ministry of Health have denied our request to continue our current arrangement, despite backing from the three PHO's and the CDHB. They require that practices and pharmacies register with and order COVID PPE directly from MoH contracted central suppliers.

What this means for you

1. CPRG supply of PPE for COVID related responses will stop from 21 January 2021.
2. General practices and community pharmacy will need to register with HCL before this date
3. PPE will be supplied in line with Ministry [principles of supply](#). At level 1, this means that no PPE will be provided, apart from for the purposes of swabbing.
4. Please send any feedback you have regarding this to: COVID.HealthSupplyChain@health.govt.nz
5. The Ministry acknowledged the importance of each healthcare facility maintaining a small PPE pandemic reserve (up to three weeks PPE) but are also asking that practices do not stockpile.

Action Required

All facilities will need to connect with the Ministry of Health supply chain HCL to set up an account following the process outlined in the attached document. Note, the MoH is asking you to set up a second account if you already purchase from HCL. You will need to register at <https://www.hcl.co.nz/contact-us/> to establish your account and they will provide you with details of how to order from the Ministry of Health portal. You will need to do this with some urgency, to avoid any delay in supply. **Please start ordering from HCL once your Covid specific account is activated.**

CPRG Position

We apologise for the inconvenience to you at this busy time of year and are sorry for any difficulties this may cause. CPRG will continue to supply PPE on request up until 21 January 2021. **Over the forthcoming Christmas period we will process orders received up until COB on Tuesday 15 December and then again from Tuesday 5 January.** CPRG will continue to advocate on your behalf and will be monitoring ongoing supply and response under the new centralised scheme to ensure that surge capacity is in the system.

Thank you for your understanding at this time.

Kind regards,

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Response Manager

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GP Clinical Lead

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Pharmacy Lead