



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

27th March 2020

Dear Matt,

Re: Personal Protective Equipment & Virus Testing Kits

I am writing on behalf of numerous constituents, working on the front-line, without access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at their place of work.

Front-line workers fighting to save lives in the face of Covid-19 should be provided with the adequate safety equipment to prevent their own infection. I recognise that this is a very fast-moving and difficult time, but PPE equipment should be a basic requirement which the Government needs to address urgently as a top priority.

NHS staff from the Countess of Chester have contacted me expressing their deep concern that shortages are leaving doctors, nurses and other front-line workers dangerously ill-equipped to care for Covid-19 patients. We are asking our most valuable workers, key to fighting this pandemic, to put their own lives and the lives of their families at risk every day by asking them to care for patients who could have Covid-19 whilst failing to provide them with the accurate safety provisions. Moreover, in the cases where PPE has been used by medical staff, some of this equipment is commonly not up to WHO standards.

I would be grateful if you could outline what action the Government is taking to ramp up the production of PPE. Furthermore, in what timescale should my constituents working at the Countess of Chester expect to receive their own protective equipment?

In addition, many front-line staff are frustrated with the slow distribution of accurate self-testing kits. It is vital that front-line NHS staff are the first to receive these kits, to allow them to continue working at this vital time, and be sure that they are not infected. I would be grateful if you could outline the exact timeline expected for these testing kits to be made available to medical staff in my constituency? Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Matheson MP

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