

Public service organisations continue their plea to businesses and the public to get in touch if they can supply vital PPE to protect frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a county-wide appeal, the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) has been contacted by businesses and individuals from a wide range of sectors, from nursery schools through to pharmaceutical suppliers, offering to manufacture or donate unused supplies.

The SRF co-ordinates the response, resilience and recovery plans for all emergency services and local authorities, also drawing on resources such as the military, with direct links into Government. Plans are closely aligned with NHS teams, who report through a regional mechanism to the Department for Health (DFH).

The multi-agency group is sourcing kit to fill in the gaps until national supply chains of protective equipment, such as gloves, face masks and gowns, are in place.

Since a major incident was declared in Sussex on 20 March in response to COVID-19, the SRF has already ensured that care homes and other health settings have had supplies via deliveries across the county, working closely with local authorities.

Dave Miller, Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex Police and SRF Chair, said:

"My personal thanks to every single person who's been in touch with offers of PPE. It is incredible that we have this support from the public as the SRF pulls out all the stops to get protective kit to those who need it most.

"There are almost 3,500 care settings in Sussex, and the SRF has co-ordinated the distribution of over 250,000 items of PPE so far this month, with more deliveries due imminently.

"But we know that we need more protective masks, gloves, aprons and sanitising gel to keep sufficient supplies.

"As this public health emergency unfolds, we are working hard to ensure that we can get the data on where supplies are most needed, and also to make sure that everyone is using the most up to date guidance.

"From all agencies, our thanks to all of the heroic front line workers in the health, social care and emergency services working day and night to keep the public safe."

Items require are as follows:

- Eye protection EN166:2001 Frame Marking: 3
- Hand sanitiser gel (greater than 60% alcohol)
- Disposable overshoes CE marked
- Disposable overalls CE marked
- Disposable plastic apron (single use)
- Disposable gloves (single use) EN:374/5 (Viral protection)/nitrile purple/ nitrile blue
- Fluid repellent surgical mask (single use) Type 11R medical use
- Drager dust masks

- Hand soap
- Surface cleanser spray
- Universal cleaner
- Cleaning cloths
- Disinfectant
- Blue wiper roll
- Industrial cleaning wipes (excess of 60% alcohol or a disinfectant contained within it)
- Jumbo toilet rolls
- Paper hand towels

Donations can be made by contacting SussexResilienceForum@sussex.pnn.police.uk. Delivery and collection can be arranged. All items need to conform to the safety standards highlighted above.

Additional information is available from the SRF website <https://www.sussex.police.uk/srf>.