



1. We write further to circular TRI/03/20, issued on 3 April 2020.
2. As indicated in the Agreement reached on 26 March this tripartite group will meet on a weekly basis, or more frequently if required, to consider any newly suggested additional activities.
3. At today's tripartite meeting it was agreed to add two further areas of work to the Agreement:
 - Face Fitting for masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with Covid-19 patients
 - Delivery of PPE and other medical supplies to NHS and care facilities
4. For the avoidance of doubt, paragraph 14 of the original Agreement is therefore now extended to include:
 - Ambulance Service assistance: Ambulance Driving and Patient/Ambulance personnel support limited to current competence (Not additional FRS First or Co-Responding)
 - Vulnerable persons – delivery of essential items
 - COVID-19 – Mass casualty (Movement of bodies)
 - Face Fitting for masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with Covid-19 patients
 - Delivery of PPE and other medical supplies to NHS and care facilities
5. All three parties recognise that additional activities may have to rely upon personnel volunteering.
6. As with the initial three areas of additional work, the introduction of such work at local level is subject to the minimum safety requirements having been met as set out in paragraph 11 of the Agreement:
 - a. The activity is risk assessed
 - b. Appropriate delivery and management of any additionally necessary training is in place
 - c. Appropriate delivery and management of any additionally necessary fit for purpose PPE is in place
 - d. Adequate management of the activity and firefighters is in place
7. For ease of reference, further clarification on points (a) to (c) was provided in TRI/03/20:
 - a. Identified control measures are in place following the full risk assessment
 - b. Any additionally necessary training will have been provided
 - c. Any additionally necessary PPE will have been provided, including information and, where necessary training.

8. To assist local parties with the smooth implementation of these additional new activities, the Tripartite Group has identified the attached key points for consideration as part of the local discussions indicated in the Agreement.

APPENDIX

Face-fitting for masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with Covid-19 patients

FRSs already have personnel trained in face-fitting of masks. This work will initially be undertaken by those personnel. It may however become necessary for other personnel to do so in which case, in the same way as for any other agreed activity in the Agreement, the requirements contained in paragraph 11 of the agreement will apply.

Local parties should consider the following key points:

1. Ensure that the facemask fitting practitioner and the candidate do not come in to skin-to-skin contact or in close proximity to the exhaled breath of the other without suitable protection. Measures should be put in place to avoid this occurring. For example, this could be achieved through transparent screening at head and chest level or suitable protection for airways and eyes.
2. HSE guidance and Approved Code of Practices (ACOPs)
3. That facemask fitting practitioners have any required valid certification
4. Re-familiarisation is provided to those facemask fitting practitioners who have not practised facemask fitting for some time.
5. The location where the testing is to take place to have -
 - a. Facilities for ablutions for facemask fitting practitioners which are used by other 'COVID-sterile' health/ care practitioners
 - b. Facilities for suitable rest breaks for facemask fitting practitioners in areas which are not used by known COVID-19 sufferers
6. Suitable facilities for facemask fitting practitioners to change clothing
7. To have a manager of suitable seniority, if available, on scene at external venues to deal with any events or difficulties that may arise.

Delivery of PPE and other medical supplies to NHS and care facilities

Local parties should consider the following key points:

1. Arrangements to be in place with partner agencies to ensure that FRS personnel are able to comply with the requirements of the relevant legislation related to driving vehicles.
2. Arrangements to be in place with partner agencies to ensure that FRS personnel are not likely to be required to carry heavy or unwieldy goods unaided so that the manual handling regulations can be complied with.
3. Arrangements to be in place that deliveries are dropped at a suitable location at each destination point that does not increase personal risk to FRS personnel eg entry into health or care premises.