

**To: All NI GDPs**

*Tel: 028 9536 2815*

27 February 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Alleviation of Face Mask Shortage and Coronavirus Advice**

As you will no doubt be aware, stocks of face masks among dental supply houses across the UK have been running low in recent weeks. In response to this situation, NHS Supply Chain have released some of their stockpile of surgical masks to the main suppliers of dental consumables.

Under the terms of the stockpile release, NHS Supply Chain have stipulated that dental supply houses must ensure that the proportion of masks supplied to each of the four UK countries is in line with historical norms (i.e. that Northern Ireland receives approximately 5% of the total release).

On the wider issue of Coronavirus / COVID-19, you should be aware that a Coronavirus page\* has been set up within the dental section of the BSO website and this contains advice to practices and practitioners in relation to the management of suspected cases. It is my intention to add to this advice over the coming days and weeks therefore it is essential that practitioners check this webpage frequently to ensure that they are following the latest guidance.

Yours sincerely



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Head of Dental Services

\* Address of Coronavirus webpage <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3111.htm>