Dear ENT UK member,

As many of you will now be aware, Public Health England have now released their long-awaited guidance on PPE… the guidance is accessible [here](#).

We are happy that ENT is specified in this but are also very conscious that there is ongoing work required to ensure that this remains a priority on the national agenda. To this end we are thankful to those of you who completed our recent survey on the provision of PPE in your local Trusts. We have further analysed the report and present the results below. Thank you to Professor Gerard O’Donoghue and Mr Andrew Swift for their leadership of this. The outputs of this survey further emphasise the grave concerns among you about the availability and appropriateness of PPE.

Finally, ENT UK is today launching a ‘national registry of ENT surgeons affected by COVID-19 in the UK’ survey. We aim to gather accurate information about ENT surgeons affected by COVID-19, to further inform and assist guidance, PPE and service planning. We encourage you to [take the time to share your experience of how COVID-19 has affected you and your colleagues](#).

Update on ENT UK PPE survey results

In the last letter to members, dated Wednesday 30 March, we included a synopsis of [our PPE survey results](#). Further analysis of the open-ended questions has been completed and the [summarised analysis is here](#). Key emerging themes are:
• Available PPE is being rationed, with some consultants buying their own, while others report experiencing emotional blackmail.
• There is an almost universal fear of PPE stocks running out very quickly. Many are obliged to ration use to preserve stock for burgeoning future needs.
• While some report excellent collaboration with Trusts, many felt Trusts ignored or underestimated their need for PPE.
• Inappropriate arrangements for fit-testing are widely reported.
• A common source of frustration is the conflicts between guidelines developed by bodies including ENT UK, Public Health England, RCS and Anaesthesiology.
• The risk of COVID-19 infection is of major concern, especially as staff absences exacerbate risks to the physical and mental health of those able to work.
• The strain imposed by having large numbers of staff in quarantine is a major problem.

Updated tracheostomy guidance
ENT UK published ‘Framework for open tracheostomy in COVID-19 patients’ on 23 March, authored by Mr Tony Jacob, Consultant ENT and Head and Neck Surgeon. We have received a number of questions concerning timing of the decision to perform the procedure and the technique used, and have now updated the guideline to clarify these points. The updated document is available for download in the ‘New guidance today’ section, below, as well as on the ENT UK website.

Update on BRS letter to Public Health England
Following international interest in the British Rhinological Society’s letter to Public Health England two weeks ago, a detailed update has been produced and can be read here.
Cancer Telephone Triage – new and follow-ups

In our recent letter to members, dated Monday 23 March, we shared a triage tool for cancer referrals developed by Professor Vinidh Paleri and colleagues. Professor Paleri writes:

“ENT UK has received positive feedback for the 2WW calculator, with significant reduction in footfall in H&N clinics, (in some cases over 90%) and is currently being used in centres across the UK. We have now added a decision aid for follow-up patients too. This is based on the best evidence possible, generated from data from 5,123 follow-up consultations collected as part of a UK audit in 2018.”

Click here for downloads of all the relevant documents, including a user guide, registration, and tips on securing local regulatory approvals within NHS organisations.

INTEGRATE, the UK trainee research collaborative, has kindly agreed to adopt this project and help in its delivery. Previously, local contributions to national audit projects have counted towards ARCP obligations and participation will secure collaborative authorship, in line with previous studies.

As telephone outpatient consultations are being used extensively in the COVID era, ENT UK encourages all members to consider using this structured approach. Your participation in this nationwide service evaluation will help to reduce variations in practice and define a new standard of care for the future.

Attend a COVID-19 webinar

As part of their COVID-19 webinar series, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh are hosting a webinar titled ‘COVID-19: Hot Topics in Orthopaedics, ENT and OMFS’, which will take place on Monday 6 April at 7pm. Professor Janet Wilson, Consultant ENT Surgeon, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Ms Laura
Warner are the ENT speakers for this webinar which aims:

- to update you on the latest developments in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic
- to answer burning questions from around the world on the topics of Orthopaedics, ENT and OMFS
- to support our surgeons and allied surgical professionals as we tackle the global pandemic together.

You can register here.

Kind regards,

Professor Nirmal Kumar,
President of ENT UK

New guidance today

- COVID-19 Tracheostomy Guidance
- PPE Survey Results – analysis of open-ended questions

Existing guidance and resources

- COVID-19 - Adult Nasoendoscopy (FNE) and Possible Upper Aerodigestive Tract Fish Bone Investigation
- ENT UK COVID-19 patient advice FAQs
- ENT UK COVID-19 Adult Tonsillitis and Quinsy Guidelines - PDF
- PPE for nasal endoscope decontamination during the COVID-19 pandemic
- PPE for the Covid-19 Pandemic Survey
- Experiences of a Paediatric Otolaryngologist: navigating the current challenges
- BAPO statement on SARS Cov2 and Paediatric Otolaryngology Provision - PDF
- FFP3 respirator usage: current ENT UK recommendation
- Guidance PPE for patients with emergency oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal conditions whose COVID Status is unknown
- Guidance for undertaking otological procedures during COVID-19 pandemic
- COVID-19 Epistaxis Management
- FFP3 respirator usage: current ENT UK recommendations
- Advice for patients with new-onset anosmia during COVID-19 pandemic
- COVID-19 letter to members
- Initial guidance for head and neck cancer management during Covid-19
- BAETS statement on COVID-19 and Thyroid Cancer Services - PDF
- COVID-19 letter to members
- Remote triaging of urgent suspected head and neck cancer referrals during Covid-19 pandemic
- Nasal endoscopy and laryngoscopy examination of ENT patients
- COVID-19 Tracheostomy Guidance
- Aerosol-generating procedures in ENT
- Loss of sense of smell as marker of COVID-19 infection
- COVID-19 letter to members
- ENTUK Guidelines for changes in ENT during COVID-19 Pandemic
- NTSP considerations for tracheostomy in the Covid-19 outbreak
- Tracheostomy guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Initial guidance for head and neck cancer management during Covid-19 Pandemic
- Guidance for ENT during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ENT UK response to COVID 19 and BACO 2020
You can find all of these documents and more on our dedicated COVID-19 webpage, which is regularly updated with valuable guidance and resources for members, so please continue to check there for the latest documents and most up-to-date information.