Dear Executive Directors, Directors and Governors,

Please find attached the HMPPS Staff Face Mask strategy. This document provides guidance on the introduction of face masks for staff across HMPPS. With effect from this week, fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSM) will be provided to all staff in line with the model outlined in the document.

This model applies to all HMPPS sites including private and public prisons, approved premises, probation (including in courts) and the youth estate. The strategy have been endorsed by Prisons Operational Management Committee, Probation Gold and signed off by the HMPPS Leadership Team (HLT). It has been developed in  collaboration with Public Health England/Wales, HMPPS Health and Safety and Trade Union colleagues. The model refers to use of Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSMs) which are medical grade masks which provide an increased level of or protection for both the wearer and other people.

The model is tiered, comprising of:

**1 ) Nationally Determined Use** - Nationally determined, mandated use of face masks as set out by existing SOPs.

**2 ) Locally Determined Use** - Establishments/site -level mandated use of face masks as set out by localised risk assessments and Local Operating Procedures (LOPs).

**3) Individually Determined Use** - Optional deployment of face masks in situations not covered  by tier 1 or 2 through individual decision making.

Existing COVID-19 controls such as social distancing and good hygiene standards continue to be out best defence against COVID-19. The purpose of this strategy is not to replace these existing measure, but to support them, and further protect both our staff, and those in our care. The strategy outlines the model in full, the processes for ordering, management and distribution of masks, Governance of the use of face masks, security considerations along with an FAQ document which can be shared with staff to address any questions. The strategy also acknowledges that a face covering model for prisoners and service users is also being developed, and will be shared in due course.

We will keep this strategy under review, and will communicate any updates through the usual communication channels. Any queries or concerns related to the strategy should be directed to COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk in the first instance.

Best wishes

Ed Cornmell

COVID-19 Gold Commander