Please find attached the HMPPS Prisoner Face Covering strategy. This document provides guidance on the introduction of face coverings for prisoners and children and young people in custody across HMPPS. It is the partner policy to the HMPPS staff face mask strategy which was published on 12 October.

This model applies to all HMPPS custodial sites including private and public prisons and the youth estate. A separate policy which outlines use of face coverings in probation settings has already been published. The strategy has  been endorsed by Prisons Operational Management Committee 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 fabric face coverings, which are already in use in specific areas of the estate and support existing control measures against COVID-19. Face coverings are not classed as items of PPE in the same way that the FRSMs being used by staff are. Therefore, there are exemptions applicable to their use. Establishments should refer to the strategy for further details on exemptions.

The model is tiered, comprising of:

**1 ) Nationally Determined Use** - Nationally determined, mandated use of face coverings in specific scenarios.

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

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 management, laundering and distribution of coverings, Governance of their use and security considerations.

Prisons are asked to implement this strategy immediately. This strategy has been developed at pace and we will keep it under review.  We therefore ask establishments to highlight any operational challenges and prisoner/staff feedback to be included into future iterations. Feedback, along with any queries or concerns related to the strategy should be directed to [COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Please also note, that following the publication of the HMPPS Staff Face Mask strategy last week, establishments are required to provide IMB members with face masks for the purposes of establishment visits.

