**Clarification to Staff Face Mask Strategy**

Dear Executive Directors, Directors and Governors,

Further to the publication of the HMPPS Staff Face Mask strategy on 12 October, there has been a clarification to the strategy surrounding the provision of FRSMs for external partners which it is important that establishments are aware of.

External partners and contractors such as Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), Prisoner Escort and Custodial Services (PECS), and Electronic Monitoring Services (EMS) are required to adhere to the HMPPS approach towards face masks. Where face masks are **mandated** for use **during an at-risk activity or for use in an at-risk area**, identified in SOPs, LOPs and/or Exceptional Delivery Models  any staff member from any third party organisation on a premises managed by HMPPS **undertaking those tasks or working in the specified area** must comply with the relevant control measures .   External partners retain the duty to undertake their own risk assessments in relation to their staff and to take suitable measures as required. This process must involve  consultation with HMPPS locally to inform decision making and ensure consistency in relation to the use of FRSMs.

Where the use of FRSMs has been mandated by HMPPS for particular activities or for use in a particular area in a SOP, LOP or in an Exceptional Delivery Model, HMPPS will provide them to third party providers **only where this has resulted in an addition to the third party providers existing provision.**

Unless arrangements are already in place nationally for the provision of FRSMs to relevant third party providers it is important that local third party providers/charitable organisations (such as Family Service Providers) inform Governors when additional requirements to wear FRSMs are introduced that are over and above the existing provision for their staff/volunteers. This will enable the establishment COVID contact point to include any additional requirements for FRSMs into their monthly PPE Hub order.

Any questions related to this matter should be directed to COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk in the first instance.

Kind Regards,

Ed Cornmell

COVID-19 Gold Commander