



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health & Social Care  
Via email: [ps.matthancock@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:ps.matthancock@dhsc.gov.uk)

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Ref: JG/PD

Dear Matt

We write on behalf of MPs and council leaders in Shropshire following a briefing with NHS leaders earlier today.

We recognise that the NHS is allocating resources as and when they are available, but locally in Shropshire we ask for urgent help with the following:

**1. Ventilators**

SaTH is increasing current capacity for ventilators serving 14 beds in existing ICUs and is currently planning a total of 63 bed spaces for ventilators to cope with increased incidence of Coronavirus. It therefore needs an additional 49 ventilators as soon as possible.

SaTH is also preparing to have oxygen available to 400 patients over its two sites, therefore ensuring an adequate and safe supply of oxygen to these spaces in each of Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital. In addition procurement of sufficient consumables to serve routinely this number of patients with oxygen will also be required.

**2. Personal Protection Equipment**

While supplies of PPE have been provided to the acute hospitals in Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry, there remains a clear shortage of masks, gloves and gowns in community hospitals, primary care settings, care homes, domiciliary care providers, and to charities and other voluntary groups supporting the vulnerable, including homeless and those self-isolating. Specifically tens of thousands of masks and gloves are needed urgently by the CCGs, who will distribute them locally if delivered to a central point.





**3. Testing**

SATH is increasing its testing capability within its own laboratory, receiving a new machine, but at present does not have testing kit consumables to operate this and test in-house, so tests have to be sent to Birmingham for analysis at present.

**4. Food for high risk people being shielded.**

Shropshire Council received 60 boxes of emergency food parcels at 6am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March but as of this morning had not received a full list of high risk individuals who had received letters from the NHS advising that they should be shielding. By contrast T&W council received a list of residents but had not yet received any emergency food parcels. Improved coordination of lists and food parcels would be appreciated, not least as there is virtually no capacity in rural areas for delivery by supermarkets.

We are working together to help secure the best outcome for our communities and urge you to prioritise these requests.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Local Government and Communities and Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Paymaster General in the Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP  
Daniel Kawczynski MP  
Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP  
Peter Nutting, Leader, Shropshire Council  
Shaun Davies, Leader, Telford & Wrekin Council

Cc Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP

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