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Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Julie Morgan AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

6 April 2020

Dear colleagues

The tens of thousands of people working in social care are our unsung heroes. Your work all too often goes unnoticed by the public but without it, Wales would not function. You are the invisible scaffolding, which holds individual families, services – including our NHS – and the very fabric of society together.

It was in recognition of your dedication and hard work that Wales came together last Thursday and again this week at 8pm to send a powerful message by clapping for all those working in health and in social care.

You don't need us to tell you the value of the work you deliver. But I'm writing to you today to let you know that we recognise the all-important care you provide and the life-enhancing relationships you create with the people you help.

We value the work you do. You care for people of all ages in all parts of Wales and your steadfast efforts are crucial to the lives of those who need help.

This is a difficult time for everyone and we recognise the uncertainty that the country faces at this time and the many pressures that come with this challenge. Many of you will be concerned about your own family; many of you will be juggling family commitments, childcare and your job and many of you will be working in a different way.

We are working hard to support you, including securing the same priority access to supermarkets as NHS staff – please take your work ID badge with you to avoid any confusion.

We know a lot of people are concerned about their safety and are anxious about having the right personal protection equipment (PPE). The guidance has been reviewed and been updated last week.

The Welsh Government is working hard to get extra supplies of PPE to all frontline social care staff – we have delivered more than 5 million extra items of PPE from our pandemic stocks, over and above the normal supplies available. Extra deliveries have been made to local authority distribution points for onward delivery to all social care settings.

We are working with the UK Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive to secure new supplies of PPE and with businesses and manufacturers in Wales to create our own made-in-Wales supply of PPE during the coronavirus pandemic.

The new PPE guidance is available at: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/information-for-healthcare-workers-in-wales/>

It is important the new guidance is followed properly and PPE used as specified. For every piece of PPE kit used unnecessarily, a piece of kit is unavailable to staff most at risk.

We sincerely thank you for your dedicated work – Wales depends on you.

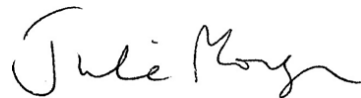
You were doing this long before coronavirus came along and you will continue to care for Wales' most vulnerable people after the pandemic, but the virus is making your job even more demanding.

We thank you, on behalf of Wales, for your efforts and the sacrifices you are making.

Yours sincerely,



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