



Synopsis of PPE survey results for the COVID-19 pandemic

Key findings from 258 ENT Surgeons throughout the UK
(survey period 23-30 March 2020)

1 Availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Full PPE for Aerosol-Generating Procedures (AGPs) in COVID-19 pandemic readily available to only 36% of respondents.
- In 1 in 5 Trusts (22%), dedicated PPE was unavailable, even For Aerosol-Generating Procedures.
- FFP2/N95 masks were available to only 27% of respondents and 30% did not know whether or not they were available in their Trust.
- 95% of responding ENT surgeons predict that PPE will run out during the crisis.

Unconfirmed COVID-19 disease and Nasendoscopy & Laryngoscopy

- Adequate PPE was available to only 28% of colleagues; just over 30% are offered surgical masks only.

COVID-19 positive disease and Nasendoscopy & Laryngoscopy

- Full PPE was only routinely available in 37%; occasionally offered in 36%; a surgical mask was available in 21%.

2 Perception of risk of infection

- 68% of respondents considered the risk of acquiring nosocomial COVID-19 infection to be in excess of a 21% chance.
- 20% of respondents said their Trust had shown little concern for safety or had failed them.
- The vast majority (89%) were concerned for their personal safety at work.

3 Training for the COVID-19 crisis

- 40% of respondents have either not attended a 'donning and doffing' course or stated that a course was unavailable.
- Most colleagues would defer or refuse to undertake an AGP in a COVID-19 positive without PPE.
- 80% of respondents do not know how to manage accidental contamination with COVID-19 infected fluids.

4 Trust operational management for COVID-19

- Engagement with the Trust COVID-19 response team was described as peripheral (47%) or non-existent (8%).
- Only 16% of colleagues had established dedicated interdisciplinary teams and protocols for undertaking AGPs.
- Pre-treatment screening areas for potentially positive COVID-19 patients had been set up in only 40% of Trusts; 30% of respondents were unaware of their Trust's arrangements.
- 60% of Trusts had created distinct isolation zones for COVID-19 patients.
- 58% were aware of their Trust having an agreed protocol for COVID-19 patients.