

Dear Volunteer,

PPE (Personal, Protective Equipment) and conserving stocks

The Hart (Humanitarian Assistance Response Team) are a newly formed team at Newark and Sherwood District Council whose role it is to ensure that isolated and vulnerable residents have the vital supplies and support they need during this pandemic. As such, the team are working with a number of volunteers, community groups and district, town and parish councillors who may be coming into contact with residents who are self-isolating. The Hart team have received guidance about the use of PPE and feel it important to share this information with you. We encourage you to share this information with any person coming into contact with those self-isolating to give them reassurance and guidance around the use of PPE. The advice states that if neither a worker nor the individual receiving care and support is symptomatic of COVID-19, then no personal protective equipment is required above and beyond normal good hygiene practices.

In addition it is advisable to increase your own cleaning activity by washing your hands properly for 20 seconds regularly or using alcohol gel when a sink is not available (when out and about). Those who are self-isolating, and where possible, should increase their own cleaning activity and keep their properties properly ventilated by opening windows whenever safe and appropriate.

It is essential that stocks of PPE are conserved and deployed sensibly to all critical workers. Local risk assessment and practical management of PPE wear should be pragmatic and proportionate, and should include consideration of whether there is actually a requirement to wear PPE at all. It is important that stocks of PPE are conserved for when really needed. As such, the Hart team do not wear PPE unless they are going into a house where people are symptomatic of COVID-19. However, any volunteer, community group or Councillor should not be entering individual resident's homes under any circumstances, and should always adhere to social distancing guidance when delivering vital support. Therefore they should not wear PPE. In order to preserve stocks, for when they are truly needed, Newark and Sherwood District Council is not able to supply volunteers with PPE. If any volunteer feels that a resident needs more support and access is required to the property, depending on the nature of their concern, they should either contact the Hart team on 01636 650000 or call 111 for advice or 999 for an ambulance in an emergency. Alternatively there is further guidance available via the Community Hub

website at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/coronavirus/nottinghamshire-coronavirus-community-support-hub/guidelines-for-coronavirus-volunteers>

Newark and Sherwood District Council would like to sincerely thank all volunteers, community groups and councillors for their hard work and dedication in helping residents during this pandemic. The response from the community is overwhelming and the Hart team especially know that we could not do it without the vital work and support of every single volunteer.

Stay safe.