

Safety Circular 01/2019

To Dame Nancy Rothwell, Mr Patrick Hackett, Profs Keith Brown, Graham Lord, James Thompson and Martin Schröder

From Dr Patrick Seechurn, Head of Safety Services

Date 17 May 2019

cc Prof N Thakker, Dr S Chiu, HOSs, DOFOs, HOSAs, Directors, School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Background

Recently, Safety Services undertook a series of inspections looking at selection, management and use of PPE. This was because there had been a number of accidents and near misses whereby:

- PPE had not been identified in risk assessments when it should have been;
- PPE was required and not used; or
- Inappropriate PPE was used.

Inspections and data analysis has given us a better understanding of some of the shortcomings that have contributed to our findings. Please ensure that your area of responsibility takes appropriate action, in line with those set out below, where necessary.

Action required: Senior managers should assure themselves that:

- PPE selection, management and use is discussed by relevant safety committees
- Details of how to select, use, maintain, and store PPE is included in local arrangements.
- PPE requirements are included in relevant communications e.g. Inductions, laboratory/group meetings, toolbox talks, etc.
- Risks assessments specify what PPE is required and when it must be worn.
- PPE is readily available where required.
- Any Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) is appropriate for the task and fits the wearer (specific face fit testing may be required).
- Supervisors are checking PPE is being worn, and being worn correctly.
- Actions taken in response to this safety circular are recorded in School/Directorate annual monitoring reports

Further guidance can be found on the Safety Services website in the [PPE Toolkit](#)