

Dear Provider,

Last week UKHCA raised the serious implications of a sudden change in the PPE guidance in relation to vinyl gloves with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

We were informed this evening, Monday 5 October 2020, that a mistake had been made in the guidance for homecare ([version 5, revised 25 September 2020](#)), and the equivalent guidance for residential care.

This e-mail is to reassure homecare providers that in most instances, the use of vinyl gloves in social care settings continues to be regarded as safe. We also wish to advise, as quickly as possible, that providers are unlikely to need to make significant emergency orders of nitrile, neoprene or latex gloves.

Alternative wording for the PPE guidance is being prepared urgently and we expect an amended version to be published as soon as it is ready. We will share this change with members as soon as we are alerted to it.

This evening we expressed our serious concerns about this error and have asked DHSC to respond to the following questions:

- How did a mistake this significant actually happen?
- Will there be an apology from Government for the massive amount of stress and confusion this has caused across the sector?
- What lessons have been learned from this and what reassurance will be provided that a similar situation will not be repeated?

A formal letter to the Director General of Adult Social Care registering the exceptional levels of disruption and the financial implications of this error is in preparation.

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Yours sincerely,

Colin Angel, Policy Director
United Kingdom Homecare Association