



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## STATISTICS

# Personal protective equipment items issued: up to 21 March 2021

Management information update on personal protective equipment (PPE) items issued during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic up to 21 March 2021.

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As a result of the Easter bank holiday weekend, we have postponed the statistical release due to be published on 8 April 2021 by one week. The next release will be published on 15 April 2021 and will continue to be published fortnightly thereafter. The next release will contain the previous 3 weeks' data to ensure consistency with previously published data.

## Main results

These statistics show the latest number of PPE items which have been issued to the health and social care system in Wales.

- Since 9 March 2020, the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) has issued just under 721 million items of PPE to the health and social care sectors in Wales. Over 342 million of these were issued to the social care sector.
- In the seven days to Sunday 21 March 2021 15.5 million items were issued, this compares to 12.5 million for the seven days ending Sunday 14 March 2021.
- The weekly number of PPE items issued has generally increased from March 2020 reaching a peak of 20.2 million in May 2020. Since then, the number of items issued each week fluctuates but has generally remained around 14 million.

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## Table 1: Number of PPE items issued

Item	Since 9 March 2020	In the seven days to 14 March 2021	In the seven days to 21 March 2021
Aprons	125,927,650	1,675,275	2,090,225
Body bags	11,456	8	0
Eye protector	1,633,686	454	501
Type I and Type II masks	1,224,450	16,750	3,000
Type IIR masks	156,804,436	1,829,120	1,708,425
FFP2 masks	126,036	0	0
FFP3 masks	3,138,923	19,680	18,800
Face visors	5,815,336	94,706	70,873
Fit test kits and spares	6,007	1	0
Gloves	386,488,040	6,756,950	9,139,350
Gloves cuff	1,347,300	1,000	8,000
Gowns (fluid-resistant)	2,242,831	36,612	31,590
Gowns (other)	675,843	3,051	8,814

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Item	Since 9 March 2020	In the seven days to 14 March 2021	In the seven days to 21 March 2021
Hand sanitiser	447,409	5,502	3,985
Hand wipes	34,957,225	2,015,000	2,387,575
Respirator hoods	102	0	0
Respirator filters	35,273	0	13,097
<b>Total</b>	<b>720,882,003</b>	<b>12,454,109</b>	<b>15,484,235</b>

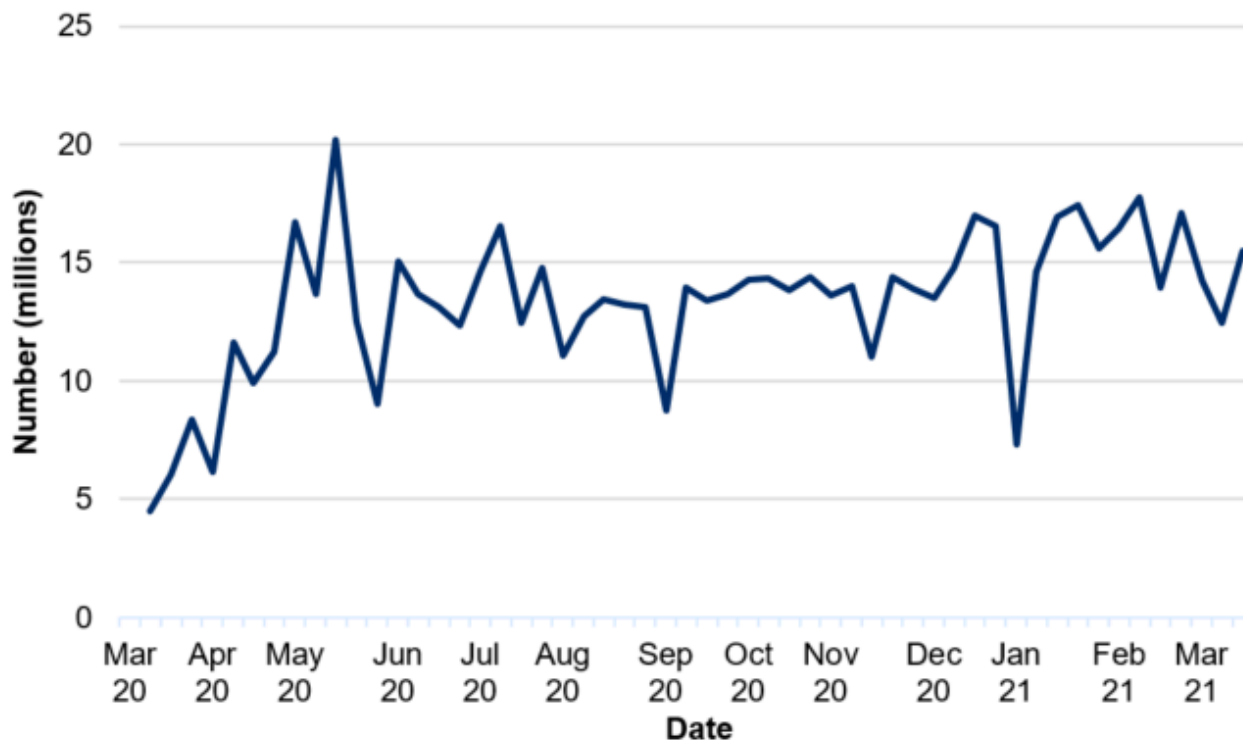
Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

The reporting of PPE items issued is based on individual units, except for:

- gloves where a unit is reported based on the unit size of a pack
- hand sanitiser where the unit is a bottle regardless of size

Note: This data is subject to revisions and previous publications are not revised. The latest figures are the most up to date and cumulative figures will include any historical revisions.

**Chart 1: Weekly number of PPE items issued since 9 March 2020**



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Fluctuations in the weekly number of PPE items issued occur when local stores use their existing stocks which results in fewer items issued for that week. Bank holidays will also have an impact on the amount of stock ordered and may result in a decrease the following week.

The data accompanying this chart is available on [StatsWales](#).

## Quality and methodology information

This data is management information provided to the Welsh Government by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP). NWSSP procures and distributes PPE for the health and social care sectors in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government. We are publishing this to provide a weekly summary of PPE items issued while it remains relevant to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This data has not undergone the same level of quality assurance as official statistics and the data may be subject to future revisions.

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Local health boards request items of PPE from NWSSP via an online system. These items are then distributed from the NWSSP warehouses on scheduled delivery slots. Processes also exist for local health boards to request emergency deliveries of PPE if needed, and these emergency deliveries of PPE are included in this data. It is possible for some items to occasionally be rationed if stocks are low. Local health boards hold their own stocks of PPE and may also obtain supplies separately to this process. Data includes stock issued from NWSSP only and does not include any stock procured directly by the NHS or local authorities. The data will include PPE procured directly by NWSSP as well as PPE distributed to NWSSP by the UK Government. It reflects a snapshot at a point in time of a dynamic position.

This release reports on PPE items issued since 9 March 2020 as this represents the point at which the current reporting arrangements were established.

Data included in this release is correct at 8pm on 21 March 2021.

## National Statistics status

These statistics are not National Statistics. However, as far as has been practicable, they have been collected and validated in accordance with the pillars and principles within the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). We continue to develop the data collection and quality assurance process to improve the data.

These statistics have been produced quickly in response to developing world events.

## Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ('national indicators') that

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must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local wellbeing assessments and local wellbeing plans.

## Next update

As a result of the Easter bank holiday weekend, we have postponed the statistical release due to be published on 8 April 2021 by one week. The next release will be published on 15 April 2021 and will continue to be published fortnightly thereafter. The next release will contain the previous 3 weeks' data to ensure consistency with previously published data.

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [kas.covid19@gov.wales](mailto:kas.covid19@gov.wales).

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## About this document

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