



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

STATISTICS

# Personal protective equipment items issued: up to 23 May 2021

Management information update on personal protective equipment (PPE) items issued during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic up to 23 May 2021.

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## 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 852 million items of PPE to the health and social care sectors in Wales. Around 391 million of these were issued to the social care sector.
- In the seven days to Sunday 23 May 2021 15.4 million items were issued, this compares to 12.1 million for the seven days ending Sunday 16 May 2021.
- The weekly number of PPE items issued 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 with the exception of the week ending 28 March 2021 when 31.5 million items were issued.

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## Table 1: Number of PPE items issued

Item	Since 9 March 2020	In the seven days to 16 May 2021	In the seven days to 23 May 2021
Aprons	139,892,975	1,184,975	1,792,725
Body bags	11,612	14	6
Eye protector	1,637,536	150	0
Type I and Type II masks	1,304,100	15,350	9,150
Type IIR masks	184,775,651	1,267,960	1,871,770
FFP2 masks	126,036	0	0
FFP3 masks	3,251,139	19,030	9,680
Face visors	6,292,042	43,273	28,041
Fit test kits and spares	6,082	0	1
Gloves	454,301,190	7,110,050	8,993,850
Gloves cuff	1,382,300	3,500	1,500
Gowns (fluid-resistant)	2,552,554	48,836	21,345
Gowns (other)	711,272	3,529	2,643

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Item	Since 9 March 2020	In the seven days to 16 May 2021	In the seven days to 23 May 2021
Hand sanitiser	489,869	4,026	6,470
Hand wipes	55,089,950	2,425,150	2,665,000
Respirator hoods	102	0	0
Respirator filters	35,273	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>851,859,683</b>	<b>12,125,843</b>	<b>15,402,181</b>

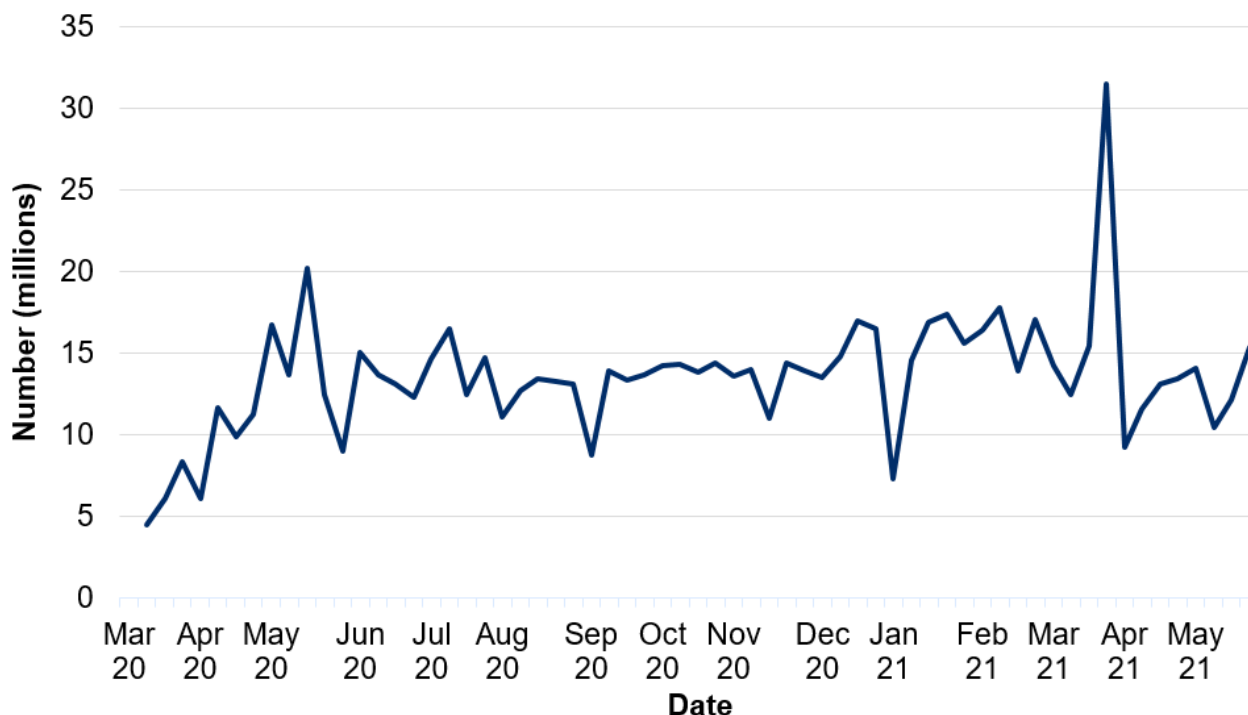
Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

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

Please 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.

PPE for vaccination packs are issued in bulk and then used over a number of weeks. This can lead to higher numbers of some items issued (such as Type IIR masks) for some weeks. This was the cause of the increase in items issued for the week ending 28 March 2021.

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

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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.

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.

PPE for vaccination packs are issued in bulk and then used over a number of weeks. This can lead to higher numbers of some items issued (such as Type IIR masks) for some weeks.

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 for **England** is published on the **Coronavirus (COVID-19) statistics and analysis** pages of the GOV.UK website

Data for Scotland is published on the **Coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE distribution statistics** pages of the GOV.SCOT website

Data for Northern Ireland is published on the **Coronavirus (COVID-19) statistics** pages of the NISRA.GOV.UK website

These data are not comparable due to different definitions and breakdowns of PPE items between nations.

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Data included in this release is correct at 8pm on 23 May 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 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.

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## Next update

The next release will be on Thursday 10 June 2021.

We are considering changing the frequency of this release from fortnightly to monthly. We would welcome your feedback on this change via the email provided below.

## 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).

## Contact details

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