

Covid Airborne Protection Alliance and others: When it comes to staff safety during the pandemic, the buck stops with chief executives

The Covid Airborne Protection Alliance (CAPA), formerly the AGP Alliance, is among the signatories of an article published in the HSJ earlier today. CAPA – of which BAPEN is a member – is among the professional bodies calling on Trust CEOs, IPC leads, CCGs and other Chief Executives to improve access to enhanced PPE for healthcare workers.

The article sets out why NHS (and other health and social care) employers and managers must acknowledge and observe their legal obligations with regards to safety, including managing the risks of infections which arise in the course of work duties. The article acknowledges the necessity for prompt decision-making during the initial ‘eye of the storm’ of the pandemic; and points to how far we have come since the outbreak of COVID-19. It highlights that the Coronavirus Act 2020 did not negate the need to continue to comply with all requirements of pre-pandemic health and safety duties.

Alongside the Royal College of Nursing, the British Medical Association, FreshAirNHS, and the British Occupational Hygiene Society, CAPA hope this article will appropriately emphasise the duty of the employer to comply with health and safety law. NHS Chief Executives and other health and social care employers are asked to ensure that risk assessments are undertaken, with particular attention to protective equipment for aerosol inhalation risk.

The full article in the HSJ is available to read here <https://bit.ly/3z9DtpQ>.