Covid-19 PPE Tracker

Great Manchester - Case Study

Like the rest of the country, Covid-19 has brought many challenges for the NHS in Greater Manchester.

How much PPE do we have for our Public Services and how long will it last? The difficulties in getting the right PPE to where it's needed, when it's needed has been a theme of the Covid-19 response to-date. With demand going through the roof and supply chains being hit, understanding what PPE an organisation has and being able to forecast future demand has been a critical part of keeping frontline workers safe.

A few days before the Covid-19 lockdown, an NHS trust in the West Midlands approached AdviseInc for some help understand stock/demand for key lines of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Within 24 hours we had a queue of NHS trusts, local authorities, police and fire departments wanting to get involved.

In a matter of days, we'd created a lightweight stock tracker for key PPE lines. A simple onboarding process where organisations were live within a matter of hours and easy to use web forms and analytics to capture and track stock. At the same time, we partnered with Clear AI, the Supply Chain Artificial Intelligence experts to provide a better way of forecasting demand for PPE.

Greater Manchester was the first region to adopt our PPE Tracker across all public services. The region has a reputation for working together to solve challenges and Covid-19 has demonstrated why a joined-up approach is so important. Working with the NHS in Greater Manchester and colleagues from across public services, we rolled out the PPE Tracker in a matter of days.

The benefits to the region are clear. They've now got a single place to look for the current stock levels of PPE across all services. This allows the region to work together and to support each other when stock is low, moving stock from one location to another. Not only that, but the data is also clean. The data received is in a standard format and normalised so everyone is tracking the same key lines to the same measures and using the same language.

The project has only been going for a few days but the benefits to the Programme Director are already very clear:

"AdviseInc's free PPE Tracker has been a key enabler in understanding & tracking PPE across all of our public services in Greater Manchester. In a matter of days, we've gone from spreadsheets and inconsistent data to a clean, single source of the truth that is updated in near real-time. The numbers are now a core part of our daily meetings and enables the system to clearly understand daily stock levels of PPE across the region and better forecast demand. It was evidenced at the end of the first week when our MoD colleagues were able to use the data to feed into the national picture with data available at the click of a button. We really appreciate the time and effort AdviseInc and Clear AI are putting into this at such a critical time for our public services."

Neil Hind, GM NHS Procurement Programme Director, NHS in Greater Manchester