

# New Ventilator Challenge devices arrive in UK

A batch of new ventilators from the Government's Ventilator Challenge has arrived in the UK this week to continue supporting NHS patients with coronavirus.

150 devices, made up of the Vivo65 and the Nippy4+ ventilators from Breas Medical, arrived this week from Sweden.

The new ventilators are existing designs, already approved by regulators, and the Cabinet Office has assisted the Swedish company Breas Medical, who also operate in Stratford-Upon-Avon, to ramp up the production of their ventilators, by supporting new production lines, negotiating with suppliers to source critical components and expediting shipments of key parts from around the world.

The existing products have proven to be clinically excellent in a number of different settings. The Government has ordered 2000 of the devices, with hundreds expected to arrive over the coming weeks.

The Vivo65 and the Nippy4+ ventilators join the Penlon Prima ES02 and the Smiths paraPAC models as Ventilator Challenge devices which are available to the NHS.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove said:

The arrival of the Breas Medical devices further underlines the Ventilator Challenge's success in stepping up the number of ventilators in the UK.

These devices are well suited to helping patients in intensive care and will complement the two other Ventilator Challenge devices currently on the NHS frontline.

We are also hugely grateful to those companies that will not be progressing further in the Ventilator Challenge. They can be proud of the part they played in the national effort to protect the NHS and save lives.

A further 449 Ventilator Challenge devices are now available to the NHS frontline, with hundreds more arriving over the coming weeks. Government efforts to increase ventilator capacity have already seen an additional 2,600 mechanical ventilators made available to the NHS since the start of the pandemic. The UK now has over 11,000 mechanical invasive ventilators available in total.

During the coronavirus pandemic, everyone who has required a ventilator has

had access to one, but the Government will continue to increase capacity through its three pillar strategy: procuring more ventilators from overseas, scaling up the production of existing or modified designs and working to design and manufacture new devices.

Today the Cabinet Office has also confirmed that, following re-assessment from a panel of expert clinicians, the department is ending support for the following devices:

- Piran Vent, made by Swagelok
- Veloci-Vent, made by Cambridge Consultants Ltd and MetLase
- CoVent, made by TTP and Dyson
- Sagentia Ventilator, made by Sagentia
- AirCare, made by BAE Systems

All five designs have made exceptional progress since the start of the Ventilator Challenge, with a number of devices having been assessed as having viable designs by expert clinicians. However they would require further development before they would be ready for clinical testing, and they are not currently required to meet immediate demand. Companies may continue to develop their designs, including for CE-marking.

Director, Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation Centre, Dr Tom Clutton-Brock said:

Having tested all of the new devices in the Ventilator Challenge, it's fantastic to see that so many designs have come a long way in such a short period of time. Designing and testing ventilators usually takes years and it's a testament to the perseverance and ingenuity of the companies involved that so much has been accomplished. While some of the new designs are no longer being supported, several designs are very close to being clinically viable pandemic ventilators.

As set out last week, the Government will continue to provide support to the following devices:

- Penlon Prima ES02
- Smiths paraPAC
- Breas Medical Nippy 4+ & Vivo65

In addition, two devices are subject to ongoing review to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the NHS:

- Zephyr Plus, made by Babcock
- Gemini, made by OES Medical

The Government recently announced that 15,000 Penlon Prima ES02 ventilators have been ordered, the first newly-adapted device to receive regulatory approval in the Ventilator Challenge, with production set to ramp up in the coming weeks. Smiths paraPAC ventilators, an existing device, are also being

manufactured at speed and at scale as part of the Ventilator Challenge.

Devices that have been selected to continue as part of the Ventilator Challenge have been selected based upon expert clinical and technical advice. This includes feedback from rigorous testing of the ventilators by clinical experts to ensure that they meet the necessary standards for patient safety and effectiveness of treatment, which is of vital importance for any new ventilator design. This selection criteria also takes into account projections for ventilator demand, the availability of other devices which already have regulatory approval, the performance and clinical usefulness of each device and the progress to date on each device's overall development.

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## [PM call with President of the European Commission: 8 May 2020](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.



A Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister spoke to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen today about the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Both leaders welcomed the good cooperation between the UK and the EU on coronavirus, including on the global effort to repatriate citizens.

The PM also congratulated the European Commission on the 7.4 billion euros raised at Monday's pledging conference, and President von der Leyen thanked the UK for our £388 million pledge for vaccines,

treatments and diagnostics.

The PM gave an update on the UK's domestic response. They agreed on the need for ongoing cooperation in the fight against coronavirus.

Published 8 May 2020

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## [Environment Secretary's statement on coronavirus \(COVID-19\): 8 May 2020](#)

[This transcript is for the coronavirus statement delivered on 8 May 2020:](#)

Good afternoon, and welcome to today's Downing Street Press Conference. I'm pleased to be joined today by Steve Powis the medical director of NHS England.

Before we give an update on the latest figures on the Coronavirus and also our work to help support the vulnerable get access to food.

Today is of course the 75th anniversary of VE day and although many of the lockdown measures and the social distancing measures that are in place mean that many of the planned events have been unable to take place as originally envisaged, today is an important day to pause and remember and 75 years ago people poured into the streets of our scarred cities to celebrate the end of that most difficult conflict.

Our soldiers fought around the world, there were countless acts of bravery, 450,000 British people sadly lost their lives and it was a moment when our whole country pulled together.

As Defra secretary I would like to take this opportunity to record the efforts of those who also contributed in a non-military way, in particular our farmers who stepped up to ensure the nation was fed and the many women who responded to the call to join the Women's Land Army.

In a moment I am going to give an update on our work to support the vulnerable get access to food, but firstly let me give you an update on the latest data from the COBR coronavirus data file. I can report through the governments ongoing monitoring and testing programme as of today:

- 1,631,561 tests for coronavirus have now been carried out in the UK, including 97,029 tests carried out yesterday;

- 211,364 people have tested positive, that's an increase of 4,649 cases since yesterday;
- 11,788 people are currently in hospital with coronavirus, down from 12,688 the previous day.

And sadly, of those tested positive for coronavirus, across all settings, 31,241 have now died. That's an increase of 626 fatalities since yesterday. This new figure includes deaths in all settings not just in hospitals.

We express our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these victims.

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Turning now to our work to help the vulnerable get access to food, firstly for the so called shielded cohort. That's those who are clinically vulnerable.

Over a million food parcels have now been delivered to these households and in addition, all those in the shielded cohort have been added to a list giving them priority access to supermarket delivery slots. So far around 400,000 people have been offered priority delivery slots by supermarkets and around 1 million orders have been placed ensuring that people can shop normally and purchase the goods that they want to buy.

There is of course a wider vulnerable group, those who perhaps have disabilities or who are elderly and perhaps don't have neighbours or relatives close by to help them. Or indeed those with other conditions that don't put them in the clinically shielded group but nevertheless make them vulnerable and we have been working with local authorities, and some of the leading charities such as Age UK to put together a package of support to help these people get access to food.

And many local authorities and charities have also been accessing the Good Samaritan app as part of the NHS responder volunteer programme and so far 79,000 shopping runs have been carried out by volunteers engaged in that programme.

In addition we are continuing to work with supermarkets to make available additional priority slots for those in this group. But we also recognise that the economic impacts of coronavirus means that vulnerability is not about physical access to food, for some there is also financial vulnerability, so today we are announcing a new £16 million fund to support frontline food charities. The fund will be used by Fareshare and WRAP to continue and support and increase the food redistribution work that they already do and will significantly expand their sourcing capacity. They will be delivering food to around 5,000 frontline charities and these include refuges, homeless shelters and rehabilitation centres.

Finally I am conscious that there is a great deal of speculation about what

the Prime Minister might say on Sunday when he outlines the roadmap for the future and how we will evolve the current restrictions. The Prime Minister will outline any changes to the guidance on Sunday but in the meantime in spite of the sunny bank holiday it is vitally important that we continue to abide by the current restrictions, stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

Concluding the press conference the Environment Secretary said:

I would also as I have done before like to conclude by recording my thanks to all those working in the food industry; from supermarkets and food manufacturers right through to farmers, there has really been quite an extraordinary effort over the last couple of months to ensure that we keep food on our supermarket shelves.

Thank you all very much.

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## [UK diplomats in Canada take part in 24hr Global Relay Marathon](#)

On Saturday 9th May 2020 British Government staff in diplomatic posts around the world will take part in a live 24hr global relay marathon to raise money for charities on the frontline battling COVID-19.

From Samoa to Vancouver the #diplomile will cover 101 countries over 23 time zones travelling from East to West. More than 3000 UK government staff and their families will run, walk or ride one mile over a 24-hour period creating a global wave that will be shared on social media.

Here in Canada we're using this event to mark Mental Health Week, with a target to raise \$2000 for the Canadian Mental Health Association and Canadian Women's Foundation.

### **How will it work?**

- UK government staff in Apia, Samoa, will kick off the marathon at 1000 AST on 9th May. Participants will take a picture or video of themselves which will then be shared on social media using #diplomile. The virtual baton will then be passed on via text message to the next participant in Fiji and so it will continue around the world.
- The Canadian leg of the marathon will begin in Ottawa at 0800EST at the British High Commissioners residence. It will then pass through Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, BATUS, the British Army base in Suffield, finally ending in Vancouver at 1700PST

## Why are we doing this?

- The Coronavirus has changed lives irrevocably. From social distancing and unemployment to daily updates on those who have died, many are feeling the strain on our mental health.
- Our teams have also been on the frontline, ensuring the safety of British nationals in all corners of the world, and helping the most vulnerable to return home to the UK.
- Research also indicates that women and girls are more vulnerable during this time, with reports on gender based violence on the rise across the country.
- For these reasons and more the UK High Commission in Canada is proud to support this marathon and the important work done by the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Canadian Women's Foundation.

## Where can I find out more?

### Quotes:

Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque, UK High Commissioner to Canada:

The @UKinCanada network is delighted to be taking part in the #diplomile global marathon with colleagues across the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more important than usual to look after our mental health – anxiety about loved ones, isolation and fears about our jobs and our future all contribute to new, difficult stresses for many of us. Mental health charities complement the vital work undertaken by our wonderful health professionals, and that is why @UKinCanada is delighted to be raising funds for the Canadian Mental Health Foundation and the Canadian Women's Foundation as we run, walk and scoot this weekend.

Caroline Saunders, Consul-General to the British Consulate-General in Calgary:

Our global network has worked tirelessly on our COVID-19 response and now we are uniting in a 24-hour virtual marathon across the world to raise money for good causes. British government staff across the globe and across Canada have shown a real desire to come together and support COVID-19 related charities.

Andreeane Lafrance, Political and Public Affairs Officer, British Consulate General in Montreal:

Raising awareness on mental health is very important for me, as I've experienced over the years the toll anxiety and grief can take in someone's life. And in those disturbing times, it is crucial that people have the tools and resources to get the help needed.

Don't suffer in silence. And for that reason, I'll be running in the #diplomile.

### **Background:**

The British High Commission in Ottawa, is the UK government's main diplomatic mission in Canada. Along with Consulates-General in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, we work closely with the Canadian government and partners across the country to develop and maintain a wide range of substantive partnerships of real value to both countries. These partnerships cover business, defence, climate change, science and innovation, education, and culture.

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## **Prime Minister's call with President Putin: 8 May 2020**

News story

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to President Putin today to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.



The Prime Minister spoke to President Putin today to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

They paid tribute to the collaboration between British and Russian forces during the Second World War, including through the Arctic convoys, and to the heroism and sacrifice of all those who lost their lives.

They also discussed the bilateral relationship between our countries. The Prime Minister was clear we should maintain dialogue but that obstacles to further progress remained.



The leaders spoke about the coronavirus pandemic and agreed on the importance of continuing to work together and with other countries to defeat the disease.

The Prime Minister invited President Putin to take part in the Global Vaccine Summit that the UK will host virtually in June, to strengthen healthcare systems and tackle coronavirus in some of the world's poorest countries.

Published 8 May 2020