

February 6, 2023

**Reference: Portex™ BLUselect™ Tracheostomy Tube Supply Status**

Dear Valued Customer:

The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on the supply of Portex BLUselect tracheostomy tubes. Throughout 2022, there was a significant focus on transitioning customers from our legacy products to the BLUselect DEHP-free tracheostomy tubes. In addition, many customers showed interest in converting from competitive tracheostomy tubes to BLUselect tubes. Overall, the response of customers to the additional benefits of the BLUselect range was and continues to be extremely positive. Meeting the increasing demand in light of various global supply chain issues that persisted in 2022 proved to be challenging. However, various efforts and investments are underway to significantly increase production levels and provide continuity of supply.

Key efforts and investments include the following:

- Increased operations staff and staffing at our critical supplier
- Investment in two additional presses to increase manufacturing capacity
- Qualification of spare molds for every size and additional mold bases
- Validation of new laser with higher yield rate

The recovery of BLUselect tracheostomy tubes and inner cannulas to healthy stock levels is anticipated to occur within the next six months. Regular updates on our progress will be provided as the qualification processes are completed. Currently, BLUselect tubes and inner cannulas are in allocation, however we continue to receive regular shipments of saleable product into our distribution centers on a weekly basis. All efforts are being made to minimize the impact this is having on our customers and distribution partners.

Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding your BLUselect orders please contact your sales representative or customer services.

Kind Regards,

*Marylou S Allman*

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Senior Global Product Manager: Tracheostomy