



*In this document, the term patient is inclusive of patient, resident and client.

Highlights:

1. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) implemented [continuous masking](#) guidelines requiring all health care workers (HCWs) working in clinical care areas to wear a procedure/surgical mask at all times. This was to protect everyone from exposure to, and spread of COVID-19.
2. This document is intended to provide guidance to HCWs when continuous masking interferes with the care needs of a patient.
3. The SHA has sourced two options to address patient challenges with HCW continuous mask use:
 - Contoured face shields (BetterShield™)
 - Masks with a transparent section to allow visualization of the HCW's mouth (ClearMask™)
 - NOTE: Health Canada has issued an [interim order](#) authorizing the sale and importation of clear mask in Canada.
4. The guidance provided in this document assumes that all other infection prevention and control recommendations are being followed:
 - [Screening protocols](#)
 - [Physical distancing](#)
 - [Routine practices](#), including [point of care risk assessment \(PCRA\)](#), [hand hygiene](#) and cleaning and disinfection
 - Additional precautions, as required

Indications for Use:

1. [Tips for effective communication](#) should always be considered first prior to the use of clear masks/contoured face shields
2. Clear masks/contoured face shields should only be used when the use of a procedure/surgical mask significantly interferes with the care needs of a patient, such as:
 - Providing care for patients with communication or cognitive challenges where visualization of the HCW's mouth is essential; and
 - Providing care to patients who have significant negative, emotional or behavioural response to HCWs wearing a mask
3. Clear masks/contoured face shields does not replace wearing a procedure/surgical mask as per continuous masking guidelines. Staff who cannot tolerate continuous masking should consult with their local OH&S.
4. Clear masks/contoured face shields should never be used during an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP) where a fit-tested N95 respirator is required.

Guidelines for Use:

1. If the patient has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19:
 - A clear mask/contoured face shield should **not** be used
 - Reschedule non-urgent appointments for a later date or schedule for virtual care
 - If interaction with patient is unavoidable, wear a procedure/surgical mask and eye protection (face shield or indirectly or non-vented goggles) and additional PPE as indicated in the [Continuous and Extended Use PPE Guidelines](#)



2. If the patient is asymptomatic but has risk factors present (i.e. screen positive):
 - A clear mask/contoured face shield may be used
 - Consider rescheduling non-urgent appointments for a later date
 - If interaction/appointment is unavoidable, implement [droplet/contact plus*](#) precautions. Wear a clear mask and eye protection (face shield or non-vented goggles) or a contoured face shield for that specific interaction and additional PPE as indicated in the [Continuous and Extended Use PPE Guidelines](#)

3. If the patient is asymptomatic and has no risk factors (i.e. screen negative):
 - A clear mask/contoured face shield may be used
 - No additional PPE is required unless indicated as per PCRA

Use, Reuse and Storage:

- Clear masks/contoured face shields are single-use only. Do not reuse or reprocess for use later.
- After each patient interaction is complete, discard the clear mask/face shield in a waste receptacle. Put on a procedure/surgical mask as per continuous masking guidelines.
- Important: Remember to perform hand hygiene each time you put on and remove your mask/face shield.

Instructions for ClearMask™:

- Instructions for donning and doffing your ClearMask™ can be found at: <https://www.theclearmask.com/user-manual>

Information for Ordering:

- To access either the BetterShield™ or ClearMask™ product, please consult with your local Supply Chain Stores to inquire on stock availability. If local Stores does not carry it in inventory, please follow your site's standard process and submit a requisition to the Purchasing office. Order details are as follows:



BetterShield™ – order code: SMI1/MXFS-100 – available through Supply Chain PPE Warehouse;



ClearMask™ – order code: COVP-CM001EZ – Box of 24 - Vendor: Cardinal Health
PLEASE NOTE: Given the national demand for this product, vendor has indicated there may be an order lead time of 4-6 weeks.



References:

Alberta Health Services. Options and Adaptations for Healthcare Providers to address Patient Communication Challenges [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 Sept 17]. Available from: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-options-adapt-hcp-pt-comm-chal.pdf>

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). COVID-19 and people with disabilities in Canada [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 Sept 17]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/people-with-disabilities.html#a2>

Government of Canada. Authorized medical devices for uses related to COVID-19.2020 [cited 2020 Sept 17]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/authorized.html>