



**The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Bulletin has been created to provide ongoing direction to healthcare providers regarding the recommended guidelines, processes and provincial supply of PPE. If you have any questions about PPE, please call the OHS Hotline at 1-833-233-4403 or email [OHS\\_Healthcareworkers\\_COVID19@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:OHS_Healthcareworkers_COVID19@saskhealthauthority.ca).**

## Your feedback is important to us!

If you experience an issue with your PPE or notice there is a defect with a product while inspecting it prior to donning, it is important that you fill out and submit a product issue report (PIR) form. Submitting a PIR form notifies Supply Chain so that they can be aware of trends or major issues with a particular product. If a PIR form is not submitted, there is no way for Supply Chain to know that they should begin exploring other options.

### Examples of reasons you might submit a PIR form:

- Instances where the PPE is not meeting the intended needs: for example, face shield does not stay on properly.
- Gowns do not fit over your outdoor gear or don't fit properly (too long or too short).
- There is a defect in a procedure mask.
- The face shield is cutting into your forehead causing your skin to break.
- Hand sanitizer is causing a reaction with your skin.
- Face mask is causing skin irritation.

### Steps to follow:

- If you are experiencing a problem or issue with a product like an allergy, first issue an incident report with your local OHS – this helps to alert the OHS staff to assist in solving the problem.
- After you have logged an incident report, fill out a Product Issue Report Form.
  - A copy of the form can be found on the [SHA intranet site](#) or by contacting your local Materials Management/Supply Chain department.
- Send the completed form to your Materials Management/Supply Chain department.
- Materials Management/Supply Chain will work with you to find an alternate product if needed.

When you submit a product issue form, the issue is investigated by a designated Materials Management/Supply Chain staff member and logged into the 3sHealth Product Issue Log. This log is accessible to the Materials Management/Supply Chain departments provincially and allows them to have a fuller picture of products that are causing issues, lot numbers of affected products, common issues provincially, trending and resolution of issues.

The process recently worked well for a procedure mask issue. Supply Chain received concerns from different end-users around the province who were concerned with the size and make of the procedure masks. The concerns were reviewed by the Supply Chain team and then shared with Schaan Healthcare. Because the SHA was alerted to the issue through the use of the PIR forms, Schaan Healthcare was able to work with the manufacturer's Quality Assurance and Design teams to redesign the mask. The





redesigned masks are currently being evaluated by a small test group, and if the reception is positive, they will be added to our provincial inventory.

### The Future of the PPE working groups:

The provincial PPE committee (physicians, Saskatchewan Health Authority operational leaders and the Ministry of Health) has ensured support for the critical and emerging needs of our staff, physicians and partners in the community, as well as incorporating evidence and guidance of national and international bodies through the pandemic. Their purpose throughout the last few months was ensuring that the necessary focus and importance is placed on this critical area of pandemic planning and operations.

PPE remains a critical factor in protecting the health and safety of staff and physicians in the SHA. With the transition away from the daily oversight of the SHA COVID response by the Emergency Operations Committee, this committee will carry on indefinitely as the pandemic continues, reporting into the SHA Executive Leadership Team.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**1. Can hand sanitizer be left in vehicles in extreme temperatures? I heard that it may spontaneously combust in the heat?**

There is no evidence currently in the literature that hand sanitizer can unexpectedly catch fire in a hot vehicle. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is flammable, but it can only ignite if a flame is introduced to it. Experts suggest that alcohol-based hand sanitizer not be left in your car for more than a few hours because high temperatures can contribute to the evaporation of alcohol and lower its disinfectant ability. Please refer to, and follow, recommendations for appropriate storage temperatures for hand sanitizer that are noted on the product label.

**2. I'm having a hard time getting a good placement with the current procedure masks, is there anything I can do about this?**

Some staff members have found that using the ear protectors that are available through Supply Chain can help with adjusting the mask to help with placement. Please refer to the [Rapid Update on Ear Protectors](#) to understand proper placement.

