



The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Bulletin has been created to provide ongoing direction to health-care 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

Hand Sanitizer

While risk was deemed to be minimal, given the safety concerns for pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as the odour and general comfort, Supply Chain has pulled all hand sanitizer containing technical grade ethanol from inventory and will no longer be distributing the Healthcare Plus brand gel hand sanitizer. Any units that continue to use it may return any unused bottles to their local Stores, or dispose of it at their discretion. An updated [Safety Alert](#) has been distributed through the Daily Rounds, please share this information with your teams.

Due to global market challenges, Supply Chain is providing a variety of products throughout the province that are made with USP/pharmaceutical grade alcohol – no risk to pregnant or breastfeeding women. A bulk supplier/manufacturer has been sourced that is able to provide a gel based USP grade alcohol sanitizer, packaged in a pump bottle format. Preliminary trial results have been met with positive reviews, and Supply Chain anticipates having new product in circulation throughout the province by next week. Please consult with your local Stores department to inquire about availability.

It is possible that some of the new hand sanitizing products available do not have emollients in them like the products staff are familiar with. Please reference the [Rapid Update on Hand Sanitizer](#) for tips on how to maintain healthy hands.

Recommended practice for hand sanitizer decanting:

Due to the shortage of smaller and personal size alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) containers, some suppliers are distributing ABHR in larger volumes than previously used in SHA. Decanting ABHR from larger volume containers is an option for having small volumes available.

Units/areas are to determine where and how to store the empty bottles and who will be responsible to decant the product from the larger bottle into the smaller one.

- Choose a secure, clean location outside of a patient care space that does not interfere with traffic flow to store clean bottles with lids on. Do not store bottles in a soiled utility room.
- Ensure smaller bottles are clean and dry, do not “top-up” smaller bottles.
- Ensure a process for collecting, cleaning and drying smaller bottles:
 - Bring empty bottles to a central point on the unit and using established process, send bottles to Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) for thermal disinfection;
- Do not detach the pump-top from the empty bottle until you are ready to decant from the larger bottle.

Process for decanting from larger bottle to smaller bottle:

- Perform hand hygiene
- On a clean surface:





- Wipe the exterior of the small bottle;
 - Remove the top of the bottle;
 - Fill bottle and replace top;
 - Ensure the smaller bottle is labelled with new expiry date and add initial;
 - If decanting an alternate product into an existing dispenser, ensure that the bottle is labelled with the alternate product information;
 - Discard the empty, larger bottle into the garbage or recycling as per unit/area protocol.
- The smaller bottle is now ready for immediate use or storage in clean storage area.

The Future of the PPE Bulletin:

PPE remains a critical factor in protecting the health and safety of patients/residents/clients, staff and physicians in the SHA. The PPE Bulletin remains an important method for providing ongoing direction to health-care providers regarding the recommended guidelines, processes and provincial supply of PPE. As we resume services and transition out of the Emergency Operations Centre and Integrated Health Incident Command structure, the PPE Bulletin will move to a biweekly distribution. Urgent information will continue to be shared in SHA Daily Rounds. Every other week a previously published Bulletin will be updated and shared as an opportunity to review the still relevant information.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can health care providers in SHA Facilities and long term care homes wear cloth masks if they are unable to tolerate the procedure mask available in their area?

The use of personal non-medical masks (e.g. cloth) has not been approved at this time for use by health care providers in our health care settings. If you cannot tolerate the procedure mask available in your area, please follow your local process to connect with Occupational Health and Safety or Materials Management to seek a solution.

2. Is there additional supported evidence and information available that staff can access?

The Public Health Ontario has compiled a great resource titled "[What We Know So Far](#)" for additional information. The information provided at this link has been reviewed and is supported as a reliable source.

