



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 Hygiene Policy

Proper hand hygiene is one of the ways health care workers can protect themselves and prevent the transfer of the COVID-19 virus. Recently the Saskatchewan Health Authority released its new authority-wide [hand hygiene policy](#). The policy encourages open communication about hand hygiene and promoting a safety culture so that improvements are addressed in a blame-free, respectful environment.

All SHA employees and physicians must perform hand hygiene before and after touching any patient/client/resident or their environment. Those working in patient/client/resident care areas follow the “4 Moments for Hand Hygiene”:

- BEFORE initial patient/client/resident contact or patient/client/resident environment contact.
- BEFORE aseptic procedure.
- AFTER body fluid exposure risk.
- AFTER patient/client/resident contact or patient/client/resident environment contact.

As well as the above, team members will also perform hand hygiene:

- When entering or exiting a facility or unit.
- Before putting on gloves, handling clean supplies or equipment, clean procedures such as preparing, handling, or serving food or medications, eating, moving to another activity, including when moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site during care delivery
- Immediately after removing gloves.
- After performing personal functions such as blowing your nose or using the toilet.
- Any time hands are visibly soiled.
- Whenever in doubt that your hands are clean.

All employees and physicians have a duty to review, ensure they understand and follow the hand hygiene policy.





Masking Guidelines:

Updated masking guidelines are available in the [PPE section](#) of the COVID-19 website. Guidelines have been created for the following care areas:

- Patients/Residents/Clients
- Acute Care
- Continuing Care
- Primary Care
- Testing Assessment Sites
- Home Care
- PPE Guidelines When Caring for Patients/Residents Confirmed to Have COVID-19 in Designated Units/Cohorted Spaces

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. I want to conserve procedure masks, so when I go on a break should I just pull it down or hang it off my ear?

If you need to take your mask off for any reason, you must discard it. You should never pull your mask down under your chin or hang it off your ear to eat or drink or go outside for a cigarette. You risk self-contamination if you do not wear your mask properly and discarding it and replacing with a new one after breaks. Please reference the [Rapid Update on proper mask use](#) if you have any questions.

2. Should I be cleaning and wearing my face shield for more than one shift?

Face shields can be worn cleaned and worn multiple times per shift but should be disposed of at the end of your shift. A [Rapid Update](#) has been created with instructions on how to properly disinfect your face shield.

