



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

Linen Supply

Last week, it was announced that employees from the K-Bro Regina linen facility tested positive for COVID-19. As a precaution, every K-Bro employee at the Regina facility has already been tested for COVID-19.

Thank you for your questions regarding the linen supply. The safety of patients, health-care employees, and K-Bro employees is our top priority.

There will be no disruption to services because of the cases. This includes no disruption to the inventory of reusable isolation gowns that are being sent to many facilities throughout the province. Patients and employees can count on receiving linens where and when they need it. Also, **all linens will be safe and clean for patients and health-care employees.** A Medical Microbiologist from the Saskatchewan Health Authority has reviewed K-Bro's processes and there is no safety concern for processed linen. All such linen is safe to use in all SHA facilities.

The K-Bro facility is very experienced in working with infectious hazards from soiled linen. They have well defined processes and precautions in place to ensure clean and safe linen including (but not limited to):

- Ensuring that all employees are wearing the PPE identified for their roles as well as frequently washing their hands;
- Completely separating soiled and clean linens at the plant;
- Screening all employees before they enter the facility with the same questions that the Saskatchewan Health Authority uses;
- Staggering breaks, start times, and end times;
- Maintaining physical distancing requirements between work stations;
- Requiring delivery drivers to wear masks inside facilities, have hand sanitizer in their trucks, wear gloves for soiled materials, and follow the health authority's screening process.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your supervisor if you have further questions.

How to Properly Inspect an N95 Respirator

Any employee or physician using a disposable N95 respirator should ALWAYS take the following precautionary measures prior to using the respirator in the workplace:

- Visually inspect the N95 to determine if its integrity has been compromised.





- Check the components for the following defects: loose straps, nose-bridge not peaked, and shape of respirator not severely deformed, which can compromise the fit and seal.
- Ensure the material has not degraded, which can impact the performance of the N-95 and therefore the effectiveness of the respirator.
- Perform a user seal check immediately after you don each respirator and do not use a respirator on which you cannot perform a successful user seal check.
- If the integrity of any part of the respirator is compromised, or if a successful user seal check cannot be performed, discard the respirator and try another disposable N-95.
- Ensure any defects in products identified are reported through your local OHS Incident reporting process, as well as the Product Issue Report process, detailing the defect as noted above.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. I have heard that Health Canada has recalled many hand sanitizers across the country. Will this have an impact on the SHA supply?

Health Canada recalls are actively monitored by Supply Chain and we can confirm that the SHA does not have any affected products in circulation. All current Supply Chain products consist of USP Pharmaceutical grade ethanol and are Health Canada approved. We are confident in the continuity of supply, with no anticipated interruptions resulting from this recall.

