



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

Frequently Asked Questions – Masking:

1. Can patients or support people (i.e. visitors) wear their own cloth masks when they come into a healthcare facility?

Outpatients and family members/support persons (> 2 years of age) are provided with a medical grade procedure mask when in our health-care facilities. However, if they indicate that they can't tolerate a medical grade mask they can wear their own cloth mask. As of Thursday November 19, wearing a non-medical mask is required in all indoor public spaces in Saskatchewan until December 17 at which time they will be subject to review by the provincial Chief Medical Health Officer. Please refer to who should be wearing a mask rapid update for more details.

2. If patients or family members refuse to wear a mask, what can we do?

Wearing of masks by patients and/or family members is required as part of the Family Presence Policy Directive and as of Thursday November 19, wearing a non-medical mask is required in all indoor public spaces in Saskatchewan until December 17 at which time they will be subject to review by the provincial Chief Medical Health Officer. It is recommended that the rationale for why the masks are recommended be shared with the patient/visitors, including how this is to protect the health of those in a vulnerable state in our healthcare facilities. If they still refuse, facility administrators are authorized to decline visitation. **PLEASE NOTE: Under the current Public Health Order (November 19), visits to all long-term care facilities and personal care homes are suspended except for compassionate reasons as per the current family visitation policy.**

3. How many times should I be taking a “mask break” in a day?

For those wearing masks according to the continuous and extended mask use strategy, there are times when the masks can and should be removed, a break taken and a new mask donned. Please refer to the PPE continuous and extended use guidelines for recommendations for when to remove and change masks.

4. I keep seeing people wearing masks around their necks or hanging from their ears. Is this ok?

No, once you have removed a mask from its proper position on your face, please dispose of it immediately and don a new one when necessary. Inappropriate donning and doffing of the masks can lead to self-contamination.

5. How should I store my mask when I take it off?

Procedure masks are currently not approved for re-use and should not be stored in between uses. Once it has been removed, it should be discarded in a regular trash receptacle.

6. What do the different levels of masks mean?

The different levels of masks refer to different levels of fluid resistance and filtration. Refer to the rapid update about the levels of masks for more information about what level should be used when/where.