



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

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Recommendations:

A provincial process is in place, led by physicians and operational leaders together with support staff with expertise in Infectious Diseases, Infection Prevention & Control, Occupational Medicine and Respiratory Medicine, Supply Chain and the Ministry of Health to make evidence and data informed recommendations on decisions for appropriate use and allocation of PPE.

Additionally, a subgroup of experts actively monitors, reviews and assesses relevant information related to COVID-19. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and the scientific evidence rapidly expands, this group works to ensure that information and standards continue to be adjusted and updated as new information emerges. As such, guidance is subject to change based on evidence and the progression of the pandemic.

A recent [update](#) on Nov 5, 2020 to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidance for health professionals acknowledges the potential for aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in spaces with poor ventilation. This has been previously noted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centres for Disease Control (CDC).

The Saskatchewan Health Authority and Ministry of Health have reviewed the evidence and remain in agreement with PHAC's continued recommendation of droplet and contact precautions (which includes gown, gloves, face shield and a procedure mask) when caring for COVID-19 patients and airborne precautions (the use of an N95 respirator) when an aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) is performed within health care facilities. These recommendations are consistent with other national and international guidelines.

It is important to note that PHAC continues to recommend physical distancing, frequent hand washing, self-monitoring, avoiding indoor crowded gatherings as much as possible and isolating immediately if you develop symptoms. They also stand by the use of a continuous masking strategy as an important part of a comprehensive package of preventative measures given that infected people without symptoms can transmit the virus.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. Now that the SHA has a universal masking strategy in place that permits the use of cloth masks in public/common areas, what types of cloth masks should be worn?**

Recommendations about non-medical masks and face coverings can be found on the [Saskatchewan Ministry of Health website](#), as well the [Government of Canada website](#).

