



The Safety Bulletin (formally known as the PPE Bulletin) has been created to provide ongoing direction to health care workers regarding the recommended safety guidelines, processes and personal protective equipment (PPE) supply. If you have any questions about PPE, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) or Safety as it relates to COVID-19 please call the OHS Hotline at 1-833-233-4403 or email OHS_Healthcareworkers_COVID19@saskhealthauthority.ca or infectioncontrol@saskhealthauthority.ca

Health Care Workers Screening

As care providers, you come to work every day to do the best you can to care and serve your patients, clients and residents and support your team. At the same time, you do everything in your power to stay healthy and keep your patients safe. That is why it is so important that if you are experiencing even mild symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, it's important that you stay home to take care of yourself and not come to work. Coming to work could put your health, your coworkers, and your patients at risk.

The screening guidelines are in place to help protect everyone who enters our facilities (including you and your co-workers and by extension your families) and they need to be done before every shift. Some of you may not want to let your team down because everyone is already working so hard. Maybe you're worried about your patients. But failing to complete your screening, minimizing your symptoms when completing your screening or bypassing the results of your screening could potentially cause more harm.

If you feel that you still need to work, even if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, due to financial issues, lack of sick days, or for other reasons, there are supports available to you:

- [Federal Support Resources](#)
- [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#)

If you are feeling pressured to come in to work, even after you've failed screening, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Hotline at 1-833-233-4403, or via email at OHS_Healthcareworkers_COVID19@saskhealthauthority.ca.

A [Safety Talk](#) on this subject is available on the staff intranet. Please post and share this Safety Talk with your team and discuss how you can help each other stay healthy and safe.

Resumption of N95 Reprocessing:

Given the current pandemic surge, the Pandemic Safety Task Force has requested a restart of reprocessing 3M N95 respirators. In order to restart this process, specific areas around the province will be asked to resume the following:

- the collection of used 3M N95 respirators; all other makes and models are to be discarded (collection of respirators to only take place at reprocessing sites).





- collected respirators shall be reprocessed (3M respirators unsuitable for reprocessing shall be discarded)
- all reprocessed respirators will be centrally stored at a provincial warehouse
- reprocessed respirators are not to be used at this time

Just prior to Christmas, reprocessing respirators resumed at Swift Current Regional Hospital.

Reprocessing to next resume at the following reprocessing sites: Prince Albert Victoria Hospital, Yorkton Regional Hospital, North Battleford Regional Hospital, F.W. Wigmore in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon (VIDO-Intervac) Regina General Hospital, and Regina Pasqua Hospital.

The reprocessing of 3M N95 respirators was implemented at the start of the COVID pandemic as a contingency plan to ensure the steady supply of respirators in the event of an unforeseen disruption to supply chain. The reprocessing of respirators was paused in October as a good inventory of reprocessed respirators had been achieved and respirator demand had stabilized. To date, over 11 thousand respirators have been reprocessed and centrally stored.

More information can be found at [Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-providers](https://saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-providers).

ICU recommendations for patient placement and precautions:

The ICU recommendations have been corrected to include the placement of patients who screen negative/test negative. Please print out the newest version of these guidelines which can be found on at saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-providers.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I have had both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, do I still have to follow the HCW exposure matrix and self-isolate if I am identified as a close contact?

Currently there is **no change in the HCW exposure matrix** even if you are fully vaccinated. Also, there are **no changes in the PPE requirements**. Vaccinated HCWs must continue to wear all appropriate PPE based on SHA guidance. We are currently reviewing this process and will provide more information as it becomes known.

Q: I have been identified as a close contact but I am not showing any symptoms and have tested negative for COVID-19. How long do I need to self-isolate before returning to work?

You must self-isolate for 14 days. New isolation guidelines have been recently released which have caused some confusion on the isolation period after being identified as a close contact. The 10-day isolation guidelines **only** apply to individuals who have received a positive COVID-19 result and are not in hospital. For more information please visit [Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://saskatchewan.ca/COVID19)

