



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

BULLETIN #3

June 11, 2020

PPE RISK ASSESSMENT LEVEL	All PPE levels remain intact, but at least one item will be depleted within a matter of days.
IMPACTED PPE	N95 Respirators: 3M N-95 1870+
MINISTRY OF HEALTH DIRECTION	Use of alternative/equivalent PPE

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, there has been an increasing and unprecedented global demand for PPE, and traditional supply chains have been disrupted. Many types of supplies have been impacted by these disruptions and increased demand, particularly for N95 respirators. In an effort to conserve supply, the ministry and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) Supply Chain have used allocation methods to manage the limited supply and at the same time, have been pursuing safe and effective products from new suppliers. New supplies are more readily available than some existing products and help with our immediate demand while alleviating pressure on other products.

Over the coming weeks and months, you will see new types and models of devices and equipment in particular PPE. You likely have already seen a number of new types of gowns, eye protection, and respiratory protection used where you work. This trend will continue, particularly with surgical and procedure masks as well as N95 respirators. Before these devices are considered for deployment to the front lines, they undergo examination and testing to ensure they meet all National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Health Canada, and WorkSafe BC regulations and standards.

Globally, N95 respirators have been particularly difficult to reliably procure, even from existing suppliers. B.C. has not been immune from these impacts and supply levels for some N95 models are critically low. Currently, the ministry and health authorities are planning on substituting the 3M 1870+ N95 with a new respirator, the AllMed P220002 KN95 respirator. The AllMed respirator is a safe and appropriate replacement for existing products that are available in a sustainable supply.

Before this respirator was considered for use, it had to pass rigorous internal and external testing processes to ensure it met NIOSH, Health Canada, and WorkSafe BC requirements. Specifically, the device was tested by Vancouver Coastal Health, SGS-IBR laboratory an international testing company, University of British Columbia, and Mustang Survival (refer to [resources](#) below). These tests have concluded that the respirator meets all necessary requirements. In addition, this respirator is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, and the European Union.

Over the coming weeks 3M 1870+ users will receive communications about being fit tested to the AllMed respirator. Fit testing teams will provide you more information about the new respirator.

The ministry and PHSA Supply Chain continue to work to ensure that all PPE is being managed across the health-care system by developing new supply chains, prioritizing distribution, and allocating supplies to ensure continued availability. The safety of health-care workers is critical to B.C.'s pandemic response and access to PPE is an ongoing priority.

These efforts ensure the health sector has access to safe and appropriate PPE.



Resources

British Columbia

Ministry of Health. Personal Protective Equipment bulletin 2, April 8, 2020. Available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/ppe_bulletin_2_-_april_8_final.pdf

Ministry of Health. Infection Prevention and Control Policy Communique. May 19, 2020. Available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-infection-prevention-control.pdf>.

Ministry of Health. COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Framework. March 25, 2020. Available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/ppe_allocation_framework_march_25_2020.pdf.

Ministry of Health. B.C. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply, Assessment, Testing and Distribution Protocol and Flowchart. May 1, 2020. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/infection-control/personal-protective-equipment>

SGS IBR Laboratory. Test Report Prepared for Vancouver Coastal Health Authority – NIOSH TEB-APR-STP-0059. May 11, 2020

University of British Columbia. UBC testing procedures for the recommendation face mask materials. May 1, 2020.

Mustang Survival. Vancouver Health Authority Face Mask Evaluation Internal Test Report. April 21, 2020

Canada

Government of Canada. Medical devices for use against coronavirus (COVID-19): List of products authorized under Interim Order. May 20, 2020. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/products-authorized-interim-orde.html>.

Optimizing the use of masks and respirators during the COVID-19 outbreak. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/masks-respirators-covid19.html>

World Health Organization

World Health Organization. Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages – Interim Guidance. April 6, 2020. Available at: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331695/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_PPE_use-2020.3-eng.pdf.

AllMed FDA Certification
<http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202004/15/WS5e9646eaa3105d50a3d16356.html>

