

## MEMO

**Date:** March 5, 2020

**To:** All Health Care Staff

**From:** Dr. Brent Roussin  
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead,  
Health System Integration & Quality,  
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

**Re:** COVID- 19 – Appropriate Stock, Storage and Use of Unit Supplies including  
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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Ensuring that regions, units and staff throughout the health system have access to the equipment and supplies required for safe patient care and the personal protection of staff, is an urgent priority.

All regions/sites and units are asked to take the following precautions to ensure that supplies of personal protective equipment, including procedure/surgical masks and N95 respirators, are maintained.

**Ensure PPE supplies are being used as per clinical recommendations.** Symptomatic patients and those who meet the screening criteria are to be provided with procedure or surgical masks. See more by referring to <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources/> (COVID-19 Highlights Quick Reference for Staff and IPC Acute Care Manual).

**Do not remove PPE supplies from any unit.** Inventory of PPE supplies is being closely monitored by unit supply coordinators. Supply Chain is actively engaged in Manitoba's COVID-19 Incident Management and response and stock and supplies are being monitored.

Consider securing a portion of unit supply close to the clinical care area where possible.

**If your unit requires resupply**, please refer to your region/site's process for ordering supplies/PPE and report any unusual changes in supply that don't match clinical demand.

If the person with COVID-19 requires an [Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure \(AGMP\)](#) as part of their care, staff must wear an N95 respirator, (staff must have been FIT-tested for the N95), in addition to eye-protection, gloves and a gown.



**Staff must be familiar with putting on and taking PPE off safely.** Training and refresher training should be made available within each region to ensure all staff have received consistent education related to the application and removal of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Thank you for working together to provide a safe environment for our patients, and each other.