MEMO

Date: UPDATED March 11, 2021
To: All health-care workers
From: Dr. Perry Gray
    Chief Medical Officer, Shared Health
    Lanette Siragusa
    Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: COVID-19 – Change to Green Zone PPE Guidance

In Green Zones, the reuse of procedure masks for up to one complete shift was one strategy implemented early in Manitoba’s response to COVID-19 to ensure both the protection of staff and the conservation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during a period of severe disruption to global supply chains.

The practice, which was an accepted deviation from usual Infection Prevention & Control Routine Practices and Additional Precautions was implemented in Manitoba and other jurisdictions.

Effective Monday, March 15, 2021, with PPE stockpiles and global supply chains stabilized, the Green Zone practice of using a paper bag to store a mask during a break is being discontinued. Masks should be discarded when going on break or leaving clinical areas. A new mask should be applied following a break.

Extended use (the continuous wearing of an item of PPE between patients/residents/clients without removal between) of procedure masks remains an accepted practice.

Health-care workers are reminded that PPE is only one element of Routine Practices and must be used in conjunction with other routine practices to protect the health-care worker, including:

- Strict adherence to the four moments of hand hygiene
- Physical distancing
- Respiratory hygiene
- Staying home when ill

Updated PPE Guidance Documents and Resources will be available at https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/ on or after March 15, 2021. An email with updated
links will be distributed via the COVID-19 Daily Update email on the morning of March 15, 2021.