

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

Information for First Nations communities:
Canada.ca/coronavirus-Info-Indigenous

COVID-19 UPDATE

Update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Government Provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Indigenous Services Canada provides PPE in cases where other sources are unavailable. Many First Nation communities have supplier arrangements with local PPE sources. If a province or territory is unable to process their requests for health care purposes, they should contact ISC Regional Offices.

ISC procures and maintains a stockpile of PPE and hand sanitizers for use in Indigenous communities in the event of a health emergency. This stockpile is accessible to Indigenous communities who may require access to PPE to ensure the safety of healthcare workers and others supporting the delivery of health services in the time of a health emergency. The distribution of ISC's PPE stock is based on public health guidance, and is intended primarily for health care workers in First Nations communities.

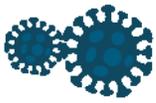
Indigenous Services Canada's PPE stockpile is not intended for routine use in patient/client care – or for distribution to individual members in communities, who are not sick with COVID-19, or taking care of a sick family member.

First Nations should contact their Regional Office if their usual supplier is unable to process their PPE requests. Regional Offices work with National Office on PPE requests for health care purposes. National Office has a PPE stockpile, which is currently being mobilized in response to requests.

Indigenous Services Canada is working to ensure quick turnaround times for processing personal protective equipment requests so First Nation communities are ready to respond to COVID-19 as effectively as possible.

As of April 13, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada has received 536 requests for PPE, 495 have been delivered and 40 requests are in progress.





Who needs Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Healthcare workers need medical masks, including surgical, medical procedure masks and respirators such as N95 respirators. It is extremely important that we keep the supply of medical masks for healthcare workers where it is urgently needed for medical procedures and to care for individuals who have COVID-19.

As a result, communities are reminded that the provision of PPE should be prioritized to health care workers and others providing direct care or services to those infected with COVID-19 to ensure their safety while providing care.

Individuals in my community are asking for PPE, but don't work in front line health care settings. What is the message for them?

Everyone should take measures to minimize the need for PPE, while ensuring the health and safety of those in close contact with people who are sick with COVID-19.

Canadian public health guidance related to COVID-19 has been changing as the evidence base and our understanding of COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. We are continually looking at the evidence as it is being produced and working with our partners across the country and around the world to learn more.

To prevent transmission of COVID-19 here is what we know is proven:

- Staying home as much as possible
- Physical distancing
- Washing your hands
- Protecting the most vulnerable from infection and exposure to others
- Covering your cough with tissues or your sleeve

It is critical that these measures continue.

Specific to facemasks, wearing a homemade facial covering in the community has not been proven to protect the person wearing it.

However, with the emerging information regarding pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission, and our goal to stop the spread of COVID-19 by all means possible, wearing a homemade facial covering — even if you have no symptoms — can be an additional measure you can take to protect others around you, for short periods of time, when physical distancing is not possible in public settings (e.g., grocery shopping, in close settings such as public transit).

Wearing a homemade facial covering in the community does not mean you can back off the public health measures that we know work to protect you; no mask will ever replace physical distancing.



All of the recommendations regarding staying home, physical distancing, and hand hygiene are based on what we know will work best to protect you, your family and your community from infection.

Where can people get up to date information?

For additional information on COVID-19 and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment, please refer to the following resources:

- April 4, 2020 – Statement by Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health
Communication: [Use of Non-Medical Masks \(or Facial Coverings\) by the Public](#)
- General information on COVID-19: www.canada.ca/coronavirus
- COVID-19 and Indigenous communities: www.canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous