

PPE Procurement & Product Management Update for COVID-19

April 30, 2020



The current COVID-19 pandemic has generated a significant increase in demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), causing global shortages for these products. To maintain a reliable and steady supply of PPE, Supply Chain teams are buying from a variety of new vendors, resulting in procurement of products that may not have been used before in B.C. health care settings. Supply Chain and health authority subject matter experts review and assess these new products for clinical use before they are made available. This clinical review process considers the guidelines put forth by established regulatory bodies and organizations with accredited standards for medical products. Vendors also undergo a review to ensure legitimacy of products and services.

If you have feedback about a particular product, please submit it to the Product Investigation Centre using the [product concern form](#). PHSA Supply Chain reviews this feedback regularly, and assesses the feedback based on risk to safety and product functionality. If an item is deemed to be unacceptable based on collective feedback and further review, a recall notice may be issued.

An example of this process was completed on April 28, 2020, when a recall notice was issued for Procedure Mask Earloop, Product IFD# JYE-LVL 2 and Rhinoworkwear Disposable Facemask LAH/FME3. These products met appropriate standards for filtration and fluid resistance prior to being entered into the supply chain. These recalls were made based on feedback from numerous users regarding fit, quality of ear loop elastic, and general product functionality.

The safety of healthcare workers is critical to B.C.'s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The [COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Allocation Framework – March 25, 2020](#), published by the Ministry of Health, provides guidance on the use of PPE in the event of limited supply during a pandemic.

PHSA will continue to source appropriate and safe alternative PPE products to support adequate supply to all health authorities across British Columbia.

