

PPE Update for Community Physicians

Dear community physicians,

The Government of Alberta recently announced that as part of the pandemic re-launch process, the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by government would be limited and that groups, including community physicians working outside of AHS, will not be eligible to receive PPE from AHS or government effective July 1, 2020 and must pay for PPE effective immediately.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) subsequently [announced](#) that we will continue to provide PPE to community physicians, and will be moving to a cost-recovery model for community physicians not located in AHS-operated spaces. Since that time AHS has been working closely with Alberta Health, Primary Care Network (PCN) leaders, community specialist physician leaders, the Alberta Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to develop a model that aligns with government policy.

We can now share further details on the option to procure critical PPE and supplies through AHS if you are a PCN, community primary care physician or community specialist physician.

- AHS has committed to supplying PPE on a full cost-recovery basis until **March 31, 2021**.
- Community physicians who procure PPE through AHS will now receive an invoice for orders placed starting May 26, 2020. Please see the current [AHS PPE price list](#).
- AHS prices for PPE reflect the cost of the product as well as distribution, administration and processing. We will also be charging for delivery at cost. AHS does not make a profit on PPE distribution.

To obtain PPE, PCN members will order through their PCN. Community physicians who are not members of PCNs will order directly through AHS. More information is posted on www.ahs.ca/covidPHC and here:

- [PCNs and PCN member physicians](#)
- Other [community physicians who are not members of PCNs](#) (non-PCN primary care physicians and community specialists)

AHS is just one option for community physicians to order PPE. They can also order PPE through the Government of Alberta's [Provincial Operations Centre](#) until July 1, or they can source from any other supplier in the market.

A provincial grant announced June 5 may support community physicians in purchasing supplies, such as PPE, required to resume operations. More information will be provided by the Government of Alberta as it becomes available.

We recognize the ongoing challenge of securing proper PPE, across North America and worldwide. AHS has been able to maintain supplies and procure in bulk, and we are happy to



extend this benefit to our healthcare partners in the community. We know and value the critical role you play in keeping Albertans well during this pandemic.

If you have any further questions, email phc@ahs.ca.

Sincerely,

Leann Wagner

Assistant Deputy Minister,
Health Workforce Planning and
Accountability
Alberta Health

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality and
Chief Medical Officer
Alberta Health Services

Dr. Ted Braun

Vice President and Medical
Director, Clinical Operations
Alberta Health Services