

## Limited Time no-cost select PPE Distribution to Community Medical Providers

At the direction of Alberta Health, AHS will distribute select personal protective equipment (PPE) to primary care physicians, pediatricians and their staff **at no-cost is extended until May 31, 2022** to enhance safety during the spread of the Omicron variant.

### Key Points

- As the COVID-19 Omicron variant spreads, the safety of patients and healthcare providers is critical
- Distribution of select no-cost PPE to PCN physician members and PCNs is being coordinated through a PCN hub and spoke distribution model
- Non-PCN primary care physicians and pediatricians may direct order select no-cost PPE from AHS
- All other community providers including specialist physicians should continue to procure PPE and supplies through their usual method
- Maximum ordering allowances are in place and will be strictly enforced
- For community physician guidance on screening, PPE use and testing, visit this [guidance document](#)
- Although AHS is confident in its PPE supply, there is a limited amount and we must ensure prudent use of critical supplies

### PPE supplies during Omicron

- Based on current infection prevention and control guidance and supply availability, the following select PPE items are available to community primary care physicians, pediatricians and their staff **at no-cost from AHS until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022** to reduce spread of the Omicron variant:
  - face shields
  - gowns
  - K-N95 respirators (N-95 respirators are NOT available at no-cost)
- All other PPE and supplies remain the responsibility of the provider to procure

### How much PPE may I request?

- The **maximum** amount of no-cost PPE a physician may request from AHS for a 2-week period (to cover one full time physician and one full time staff member) is:
  - face shields: 20 (1/day x 5 days x 1 physician and 1 staff x 2 weeks)
  - gowns: 60 (3/day x 5 days x 1 physician and 1 staff x 2 weeks)

- K-N95 respirators: 60 (3/day x 5 days x 1 physician and 1 staff x 2 weeks)
- You may round up to the nearest package size
- N-95 respirators are NOT available to community physicians at no-cost due to limited supplies
- Other PPE items are available for purchase through your usual vendor or [AHS order form](#)
- [Refer to this guidance](#) for detailed information on PPE use including K-N95 seal checking
- You may not receive all the supplies you request due to limited supplies and alternate options should be considered. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to allocate supplies based on availability.

#### PCN physician member PPE ordering and distribution process

- PCN member physicians may request select no-cost supplies, as per the maximums outlined, through your PCN point of contact (hub) who will place an order **every 2 weeks** with AHS supply management.
- **PCN physicians should contact their PCN to clarify the ordering process.**
- **PCN hubs must compile all orders before submitting one form to AHS.**
- AHS supply management will distribute select no-cost PPE to PCN hubs (shipping included at no-cost).
- PCN hubs will distribute select no-cost PPE to member clinics as per their established process.
- PCN hubs are to [use this form when ordering.](#)

#### Non-PCN primary care physician and pediatrician PPE ordering and distribution process

- Non-PCN primary care physicians and pediatricians may request select no-cost supplies, as per the maximums outlined, directly through AHS supply management, **every 2 weeks**.
- Non-PCN primary care physicians and pediatricians are to [use this form when ordering.](#)
- AHS supply management will distribute select no-cost PPE directly (shipping included at no cost).

For more information:

Primary care information on COVID-19: [www.ahs.ca/covidphc](http://www.ahs.ca/covidphc)

PPE information and resources: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-primary-care-guidance.pdf>

General questions: [phc@ahs.ca](mailto:phc@ahs.ca)