



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

May 2, 2020

PPE Update

Background:

The Department of Health's PPE policy for RHA employees in community settings is that "all (RHA) staff providing direct patient care will be provided a surgical mask (with eye protection) and gloves per shift, 12 hours or less. Masks are to be worn for all patient encounters and should be changed when wet, damaged or soiled."

On April 9 the NLMA requested the Department to provide physicians in community offices the same PPE as it requires for its own employees. On April 14 the Department responded that, "we will proceed through the RHAs to have a kit of PPE available per community physician office for pick up. The kits will contain gowns, gloves, surgical and procedural masks and goggles or face shields (the patient should wear the procedural mask). When they are used, they can be replaced."

Current Status:

The Department advises that PPE kits will be available starting Monday, May 4, 2020. There will be 3 kits per office. Phone numbers and RHA pick-up locations are in the [PPE Kit Contact List](#). Practices should call ahead to arrange for pick-up.

Note:

We ask that physicians acquire the PPE that is being supplied by the RHAs, assess whether it meets their requirements, and re-order more PPE for the date when you expect the 3 kits of PPE to be exhausted.

We will continue to advocate on your behalf on this issue, and we appreciate your feedback (nlma@nlma.nl.ca) on the adequacy of the kits when you acquire them.

*Representing and supporting a united medical profession and providing leadership
in the provision of excellent health care in Newfoundland and Labrador*