



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

May 4, 2020

Update on PPE for Community-Based Physicians

Today many physicians picked up the PPE kits that were made available for distribution by the Regional Health Authorities. While there were some glitches with phone numbers and locations, we understand the packages were readily available.

However, we have received feedback from many physicians that the amount of PPE, particularly masks, was clearly inadequate. Also, the re-ordering process is not clear.

We have been in dialogue with the Department today. We have expressed our frustration that the PPE kits do not respond to our request of April 9th that community physicians have PPE to the same standard provided to RHA employees. The key problem is the number of masks that have been made available for daily use with patients who must be seen in person.

The Department is having another look at this issue and we have submitted another specific request to get the problem resolved asap. While we acknowledge the limits on PPE supply and the need to conserve, it is absolutely necessary that community physicians and their staff be afforded the same level of safety and protection as RHA physicians and staff.

We will update you as this situation unfolds.

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

164 MacDonald Dr., St. John's, NL, Canada, A1A 4B3
Telephone (709) 726-7424 | **Toll Free** (800) 563-2003 | **Fax** (709) 726-7525
E-mail nlma@nlma.nl.ca | **Web** www.nlma.nl.ca