



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

November 13, 2020

### Changes to PPE supply for community-based FFS physicians

For the past six months, private community-based physicians have had temporary access to personal protective equipment (PPE) from the regional health authorities' PPE inventory. This program has now ended. The Department of Health and Community Services has developed a new process for fee-for-service (FFS) physicians to purchase their own PPE from private vendors.

By way of background, in April the NLMA requested that the Department of Health provide FFS physicians in community offices with the same PPE as it required for its employees. The Department agreed to this request recognizing that PPE was difficult to source and prices were inflated. Emergency PPE kits became available to community-based FFS physicians from the RHA inventory on May 4th. Additional PPE for day-to-day use was made available on May 27th. In July, the NLMA informed members that the Department had issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a private vendor(s) that could supply this PPE to meet the provincial demand while offering reasonable prices for private health care providers (physicians, dentists, etc.). The Department agreed that PPE would continue to be available to FFS community physicians from the RHA supply at no cost until a private vendor(s) was announced.

The Department has advised that the RFP has now been awarded to Seafair Capital and BioNuclear. Seafair Capital will provide **N95 respirators, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes**. BioNuclear will provide **gloves, gowns and masks** (surgical/medical, procedural). Both companies will provide deliveries to clinics throughout the province. Their products will also meet Health Canada standards for quality and safety.

Next week, NLMA will issue an update on how physicians can view prices and place orders to purchase this PPE. We will also provide members with a listing of other companies in the province that sell PPE for those who choose not to use the vendors approved by the Department.

NLMA will monitor this program and would appreciate hearing from members about their experiences.

**Note: PPE will continue to be available at no cost for the purpose of delivering flu shots.**

---

***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](mailto:nlma@nlma.nl.ca) | **Web** [www.nlma.nl.ca](http://www.nlma.nl.ca)