

# PPE STANDARDS DIRECTIVE – PHASE 3 UPDATE

November 19th, 2020

## 6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - MASKS

PPE alone will not stop the spread of COVID-19 – it must be used in combination with other measures, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, enhanced environmental cleaning, and self-isolation.

It is important to note that there is very high demand for PPE worldwide, and it is likely that health care settings will be prioritized for PPE should there be a shortage.

**Non-Medical Mask Definition:** A non-medical mask is a type of face covering that is worn by the general public, generally while out and about in public. Type of non-medical masks can include cloth masks of various types.

### Types of Masks:

*Non-Medical Disposable Mask:* Masks that are one time use and are not intended for medical use.

*Non-Medical Reusable Mask:* Masks that are intended to be washed or used multiple times usually homemade and cloth but not intended for medical use.

*Medical Grade/Specialized:* Surgical masks that are one time use and disposable, N 95 or another respirator

### When should masks be used?

- Non-medical grade masks must be worn by a client or citizen in all KDFN buildings at all times, regardless if they answered no to any of the screening questions and the mask must cover the mouth and nose.
- Non- medical grade masks must be worn by staff in all KDFN buildings when going outside of their personal work area (office space/cubical) or where it is known that maintaining physical distancing of a minimum of 6ft will not be possible (All common Areas- hallways, reception etc.).
- Medical grade masks must **be used by a staff member coming into close contact with a client who has symptoms or has answered yes to any screening questions.**
- Other types of PPE such as N95 respirators are not required in routine settings but will be worn by KDFN personnel as identified in the task specific standards. Physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and disinfecting protocols should be followed as closely as possible.
- Ask your supervisor for a reusable cloth mask which will be your personal responsibility to clean and maintain- it is the expectation that you will use a reusable mask at work when required.
- Staff requiring specialized PPE including respirators etc. must follow PPE protocols and should speak with their supervisor for access and training.

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- Other types of face protection such as balaclavas and face shields are not acceptable substitutions for masks.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT STANDARDS (PHASE 1, 2 & 3)**

### **PPE PROGRAM STANDARDS**

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Standards are designed to minimize the risk of injury in the workplace. PPE is not a substitute for more effective control methods. It is considered when all other means of hazard and risk control are not satisfactory or possible.

When required, employees shall wear Canadian Standard Association (CSA) approved footwear, hard hats, safety eyewear and high visibility reflective vest or overgarment. A job hazard analysis is required to confirm any specialty personal protective equipment for specific work areas or tasks.

In addition:

- All PPE used will be within the requirements of Federal Occupational Health and Safety legislation, and will be familiar with use, care and maintenance requirements.
- Employees shall be trained in the proper use, care and maintenance of all specialty PPE.
- Training renewal for specialty PPE shall follow industry best practices or training certification requirements.
- Specialty PPE includes but is not limited to medical masks, face shields, respiratory protective equipment, protective clothing/gowns, gloves.
- Where specialized (respirators, Etc.) respiratory protection is necessary, employees shall be required to have a medical screening and respirator fit test in addition to respiratory protection training in accordance to CSA standard Z94.4-11.
- Employees are required to arrive at the work site fit to wear a respirator (clean-shaven) where airborne contaminants have been identified as a hazard.
- All PPE shall be inspected by the user prior to each use.
- No piece of PPE shall be modified or changed contrary to manufacturer's instructions or specifications or Occupational Health and Safety legislation.
- All PPE is to be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and requirements.
- All PPE that is damaged, or in need of service or repair will be removed from service immediately.
- All PPE that has been removed from service will be tagged "OUT OF SERVICE." Any PPE tagged "OUT OF SERVICE" will not be returned to service until repaired and inspected by a qualified

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person.

- Each KDFN Department will maintain appropriate inspection and service logs for specialty PPE.
- All employees shall wear suitable clothing for the existing conditions and the work being performed.
- Employees shall wear hand protection suited to the work being performed to protect hands and skin from workplace hazards.

## APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

*Canada Occupational Health & Safety Regulations: Part XII – Safety Materials, Equipment, Devices and Clothing*

*Yukon Occupational Health & Safety Regulations: Part I – General*

## REFERENCES

KDFN Occupational Health & Safety Manual

Taking off (Doffing) PPE Droplet and Contact Procedure

Putting on (Donning) PPE Droplet and Contact Procedure

3M Respirator Care and Maintenance - Reusable

KDFN Health Centre COVID-19 Procedure