

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
INFORMATION**

A Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) is a fundamental component of each patient/resident/client interaction and is the appropriate means for health-care workers to determine the protection they require. Droplet and contact precautions and extended use of a procedure mask are required for most interactions.

Within the context of high community transmission of COVID-19, ongoing discussions with Manitoba's health-care unions have identified settings and situations where employers will be required to provide an N95 respirator to health-care workers.

These include health-care workers involved in:

- the direct care of COVID-positive and/or COVID-suspect individuals;
- labour and delivery, with the exception of those staff caring for patients who have received a negative COVID-19 test on the day of labour/delivery or the day before;
- emergency departments and urgent care centres, with the exception of those staff providing care in designated low-acuity areas where patients have already been screened at triage; AND
- the performance of nasopharyngeal swabs at COVID-19 testing locations.

In each of these settings, health-care workers providing care that does not involve an aerosol-generating medical procedure may perform a PCRA and decline to use an N95, opting to wear a procedure mask instead.

The agreement includes mechanisms to monitor and audit PPE use within every service delivery organization in the province including the ongoing education of physicians and staff to ensure appropriate use of protective equipment. All sites must develop and implement a plan to ensure staff can access needed PPE whenever needed including circumstances when a manager is not present in the unit.