



## **COVID-19 Media Lines**

### **National PPE and Medical Supplies Dashboard**

**Issue Statement:** As a result of the Government of Canada's bulk procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies in response to COVID-19, there are multiple overlapping reports being shared with internal audiences on procurement details – what is ordered, what is received and what is allocated.

Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Statistics Canada have developed a "National PPE and Medical Supplies Dashboard" to consolidate information, and to help manage and report on the federal bulk procurement initiative. Its intended audience is federal, provincial and territorial Deputy Ministers of Health and it is an internal tool. However, with a broad distribution, it is possible that it could be shared externally.

One of the potential data sets to be included in the dashboard for the duration of the joint procurement initiative is the amount of PPE in the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS), such as N95 and surgical masks, gloves, face shields and gowns. Traditionally, the PHAC does not disclose the inventory of NESS assets, primarily driven by our niche role in procuring medical countermeasures. However, the procurement of PPE related to COVID-19 is very public and the dollar value of procurement is frequently announced. We are also considering an expansion of the dashboard to include testing materials (e.g., swabs, reagents).

The dashboard will be launched on the week of May 11 (TBC). These key messages have been developed in anticipation of media attention.

#### **Key messages:**

- To support the fight against COVID-19, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is working with the provinces and territories to order large quantities of essential supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, gloves, face shields, and gowns, intended for frontline health workers.
- Once received, the majority of these supplies will be distributed to the provinces and territories. Some surge capacity is kept in the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS) to meet urgent needs identified by the provinces and territories.
- The NESS is usually used to supply the provinces and territories with goods that normally cannot be found in their stockpile, such as rare pharmaceutical products to combat biological threats. In the past, the PHAC did not disclose details about these stockpiles for security reasons.
- Even though the PHAC has never disclosed NESS stocks for security reasons, we are currently disclosing the amount of essential PPE in the NESS – specifically masks, gloves, face screens, gowns, and ventilators – and information on the amount of PPE



ordered, received, and shipped to the provinces and territories to help them with their COVID-19 preparedness and response measures.

- In the current exceptional circumstances, it is in everyone's interest to show greater transparency in supporting the nationwide fight against COVID-19.