

4-C follow-up information on PPE

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Date: Wed, 25 Mar 2020 03:15:42 +0000

Good evening,

As discussed during the call this evening, we have established a number of dedicated intake processes to effectively triage and assess responses as a result of the overwhelming interest expressed by industry to the call for help to combat COVID-19 in Canada.

- 1. Public Service and Procurement Canada (PSPC)** has established a web portal and intake form for suppliers that are able to provide specific products (i.e. N95 masks, gowns, gloves and other PPE) or services (i.e. nursing, food, security)
 - Information submitted through the web portal & generic email address are triaged by type and then referred to a procurement “tiger team” that crosswalks the information submitted through the portal to requirements determined by PHAC & P/Ts
 - Web portal: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/calling-all-suppliers-help-canada-combat-covid-19>
 - Generic email address: TPSGC.PABPMEClient-APOSMEClient.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
- 2. Industry, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has launched a “call to action” to Canadian manufacturers to help fight COVID-19. They have created a new web page as well as an intake for manufacturers that make needed supplies, have the potential to rapidly re-tool existing facilities or equipment, or who have skilled workers that could be available to work elsewhere in Canada.
 - Web page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/business/maintaingrowimprovebusiness/manufacturers-needed.html>
 - Generic email address: ic.mid-dim.ic@canada.ca
- 3. National Research Council (NRC)** has issued a COVID-19 “Challenge Program” to bring together a national network of researchers and scientific facilities to address the pressing needs for supplies, medical counter measures, and disease-tracking technology. Additionally, through the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP), the NRC has issued a call out, leveraging its existing relationships with Canada’s innovative SMEs, seeking innovative solutions and candidate for funding through Innovative Solutions Canada
 - Web page: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/nrc-covid-19-response>

- Intake form for Challenge Program: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/programs/expression-interest-challenge-program-collaboration>
 - Intake form for the IRAP: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/covid-19-national-research-council-industrial-research-assistance-program>
4. **Health Canada has issued guidance around optimizing the use of masks and respirators** during the COVID-19 outbreak to maximize the utility of existing PPE stocks (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/masks-respirators-covid19.html>) including fast-tracking the Medical Device Establishment Licence (MDEL) for companies that want to manufacture, import or distribute Class I masks. Companies that need an MDEL application fast-tracked should contact hc.mdel.application.leim.sc@canada.ca
 5. **Public Health Agency of Canada has also issued a series of awareness and guidance documents** for Canadians and health professionals: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents.html>
This includes further **guidance on practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings**, including the use of PPE: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections.html>
and **preventing COVID-19 in the workplace for employers, employees and essential service workers**:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/preventing-covid-19-workplace-employers-employees-essential-service-workers.html>

In addition, Health Canada has been receiving a large number of queries from various entities (distillers, petroleum refiners) that would like to manufacture hand sanitizers for public distribution but are not licensed by Health Canada to do so.

During the public health emergency with COVID-19, Health Canada is allowing companies to manufacture alcohol-based hand sanitizers provided that the hand sanitizer is manufactured in accordance with Health Canada's standard for safety which is consistent with the WHO recommendations (https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Guide_to_Local_Production.pdf), and under sanitary conditions consistent with good manufacturing practices. Health Canada reviews the information provided by applicants and issues a license, currently within 24h for those applications that meet all requirements. We are currently experiencing a very high number of applications so this service standard may slightly vary. However all COVID-19 related submissions are treated with the highest priority. Once a license for both the product and the site have been issued, manufacture can proceed.

Members of the Canadian distillery and petroleum refining industries are enquiring how their alcohol can be repurposed for hand sanitizers. We have facilitated a dialogue with the hand sanitizer industry who is sharing expertise in this area.

Health Canada is rapidly developing a guidance document for industry that will provide all necessary information to obtain an authorization to manufacture or import hand sanitizers. This guidance is currently being consulted with industry and will be finalized as soon as possible this week. In the meantime, companies can contact Health Canada directly at hc.nnhpd-dpsnso.sc@canada.ca.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Procurement:

PPE-related needs should be submitted to the Public Health Agency of Canada via Alixandria Clymans for the F/P/T Logistics Advisory Committee (LAC) for COVID-19 at phac.phisc.secretariat-secretariat.du.cdisp.aspc@canada.ca; cc to Tina Namiesniowski, Stephen Lucas, and Eric Dagenais.

We also ask that PTs notify us as early as possible (ideally 3-4 weeks in advance) if they will run out of PPE, testing or acute care related supplies, and have asked for their inventories of all ICU beds, ventilators, key supplies and health Human Resources.

Formal P/T requests for assistance (RFA) are managed through the Health Portfolio Operations Centre. RFAs could be for supplies from the NESS or epidemiology support. Contact: phac-aspc.hpoc-cops@canada.ca; cc to Tina Namiesniowski, Stephen Lucas, and Eric Dagenais.