

Supplying the Canadian healthcare sector in response to COVID-19

The Government of Canada is taking a whole-of-government approach in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including major investments in equipment and supplies for the health sector, as well as research, science and innovation.

On this page

- [Coordinated response to purchasing equipment and supplies](#)
- [Overview of purchases](#)
- [Working with Canadian companies](#)
- [Related links](#)

Coordinated response to purchasing equipment and supplies

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories on an ongoing basis to identify their needs and purchase required equipment, supplies and services to combat COVID-19.

Canada is taking an aggressive approach to buying—especially when it comes to personal protective equipment for front-line healthcare workers. This includes:

- ordering in bulk on behalf of provinces and territories
- supplementing those orders by purchasing everything immediately available that meets requirements
- ramping up domestic manufacturing capacity, through the [Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19](#), being led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

This is over and above efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply.

The government is also coordinating shipments of supplies from other countries. Canada has established on-the-ground support in China for transportation, receiving, storage services and customs clearances. This will be an ongoing process as orders are ready to be shipped to Canada.

Overview of purchases

This table provides an overview of the Government of Canada's purchases of selected personal protective equipment for front-line healthcare workers and medical supplies. It is updated weekly to reflect the status of purchases.

“Quantities received” includes products that have been delivered to Public Health Agency of Canada for quality testing and further distribution to provinces and territories.

Items ordered and received (information as of April 22, 2020)

Item	Quantities ordered	Quantities received (subject to testing and inventory)
Face shields	34,649,000	Deliveries anticipated to start week of April 27
Gowns	111,605,120	Deliveries anticipated to start week of April 27
Hand sanitizer	79,735,284 units	42,200 units
Nitrile gloves (pairs)	1,065,543,980	12,280,525
N95 respirators	155,424,080	5,342,940
Surgical masks	333,500,000	17,978,000
Ventilators	32,070	Deliveries anticipated to start week of April 27
Vinyl gloves (pairs)	10,150,000	1,035,000

Notes

1. These supplies were ordered on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, for distribution to provinces and territories, as part of bulk and proactive purchases that began in January 2020. These are supplementary to the existing National Emergency Strategic Stockpile, as well as to the stocks of supplies that exist in, and are being procured directly by, the provinces and territories.
2. While some contracts are being fulfilled with products on hand, many are being fulfilled on a regular and ongoing basis as additional products are manufactured by suppliers.

Over the coming weeks, some companies that required time to scale up their operations will begin delivering supplies on a regular basis.

3. Given the high global demand for these goods, there is a possibility that not all contracts will be entirely fulfilled. This has been taken into consideration in the procurement approach, and additional steps are being taken to meet our goal of having sufficient supply to exceed demand.

Working with Canadian companies

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, is exploring all options for securing the necessary equipment and supplies to fight COVID-19, including new and existing sources of supply—both here at home and internationally.

Below are examples of how domestic suppliers are stepping up to support the effort.

Bauer (Blainville, Quebec)

Bauer has shifted its hockey skates production lines to make face shields for front-line medical staff. The Government of Canada has signed an agreement to receive hundreds of thousands of face shields from Bauer.

Fluid Energy Group (Calgary, Alberta)

The Government of Canada has signed a contract with Fluid Energy Group for millions of litres of hand sanitizer to support the COVID-19 response.

Irving Oil (Saint John, New Brunswick)

Irving Oil has re-tooled its production line to produce much-needed hand sanitizer. The Government of Canada has signed a contract with Irving to provide hundreds of thousands of litres of hand sanitizer, with delivery already underway.

Made-in-Canada ventilators

The Government of Canada has signed agreements with Thornhill Medical, CAE, Starfish and Ventilators for Canadians to provide more than 30,000 made-in-Canada ventilators.

Related links

- [Calling all suppliers: Help Canada combat coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Interim order respecting the importation and sale of medical devices for use in relation to COVID-19](#)
- [Call to action: Canadian manufacturers needed to help combat COVID-19](#)