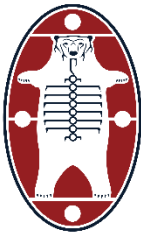


# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Resource Package

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Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
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## Introduction and Purpose

This resource was developed by members of the NAN COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Working Group.

The purpose of this resource is to support the PPE needs of communities in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) during the COVID-19 pandemic. **It is not intended to replace processes and procedures that communities and their partners may have developed to access PPE during this time.** Instead, this document aims to provide clarity to some of the more persistent issues around PPE during the pandemic, as determined by the NAN COVID-19 Task Team. If you have any questions about this resource, please email [emergency@nan.ca](mailto:emergency@nan.ca).

**Things change quickly during this pandemic, especially with PPE; while this document will be periodically updated to reflect relevant developments in PPE, please also reach out to partners (see page 16) if you need to verify any information.**

## Determining PPE Needs

An Excel spreadsheet (Community Projections for PPE Usage) has been provided separately as a part of this package to assist communities in determining PPE projections and usage. This document is a workable document, meaning the population of the community can be inputted into **Column 'C' Sample Size** to determine a rough estimate of PPE required.

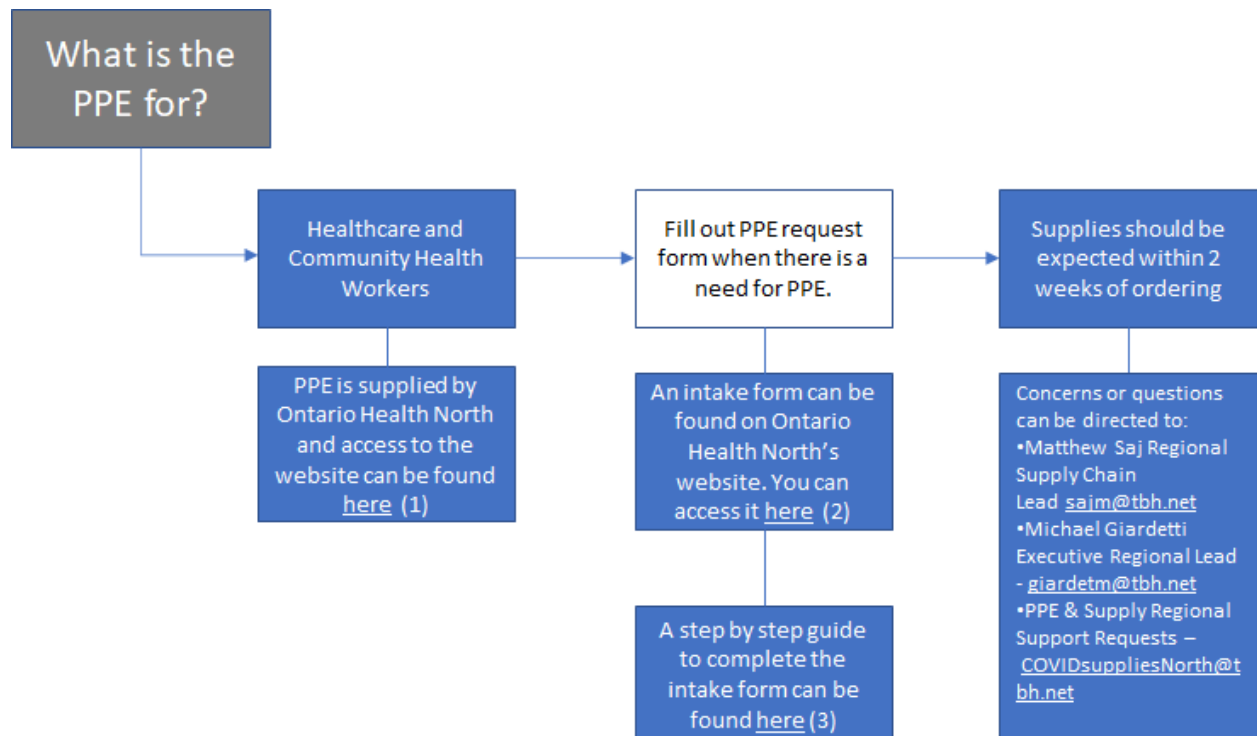
This is intended as a guide to determine PPE needs; communities may wish to order more or less depending on their needs, and there may be limits on the amount of equipment that is available from distributors.

## Process for Accessing PPE

### Nursing Station PPE Supplies

Nursing Stations are funded for and supplied with PPE through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and First Nation Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB). In non-transfer communities, PPE for FNIHB-funded nurses can be accessed by contacting the ISC regional office at [sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca) if their usual supplier is unable to process their PPE requests.

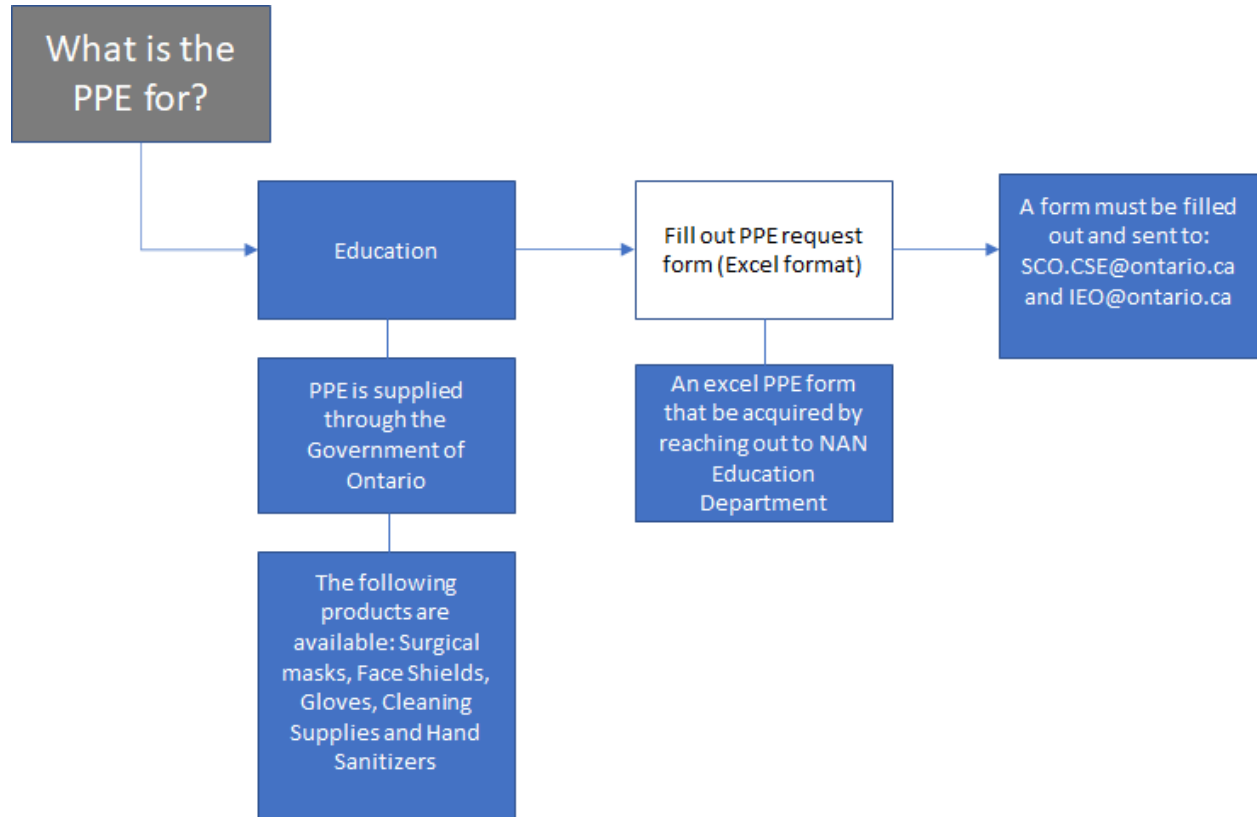
### PPE for Other Healthcare and Community Workers



1. <http://www.nelhin.on.ca/North%20Region%20PPE%20and%20Critical%20Supplies>
2. <https://ehealthontario.on.ca/en/health-care-professionals/ppe-intake?a=ppe-intake>
3. <http://www.nelhin.on.ca/~media/sites/ne/PPEandCriticalSupplies/A%20Guide%20for%20Organizations%20-%20PPE%20and%20Swab%20Kit%20Request%20Form.pdf?la=en>

## Education

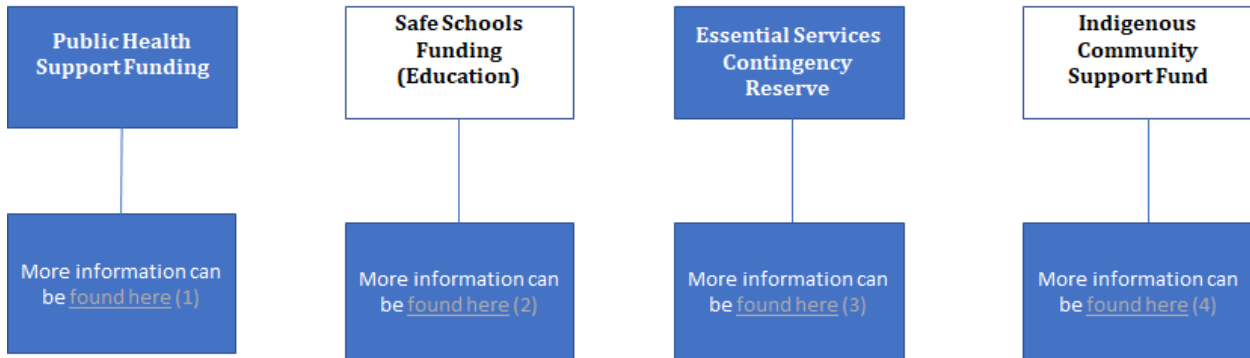
Note: If this process will not supply you with the PPE you need within a reasonable timeframe, you should contact the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to see if your request can be expedited.



## PPE Funding and Availability

Specific funding for PPE has not been released by the federal or provincial government. Some opportunities for funding are available, which include accessing PPE supports.

Some of these include:



1. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1584819394157/1584819418553>
2. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities0.html>
3. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/escr.html>
4. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198>

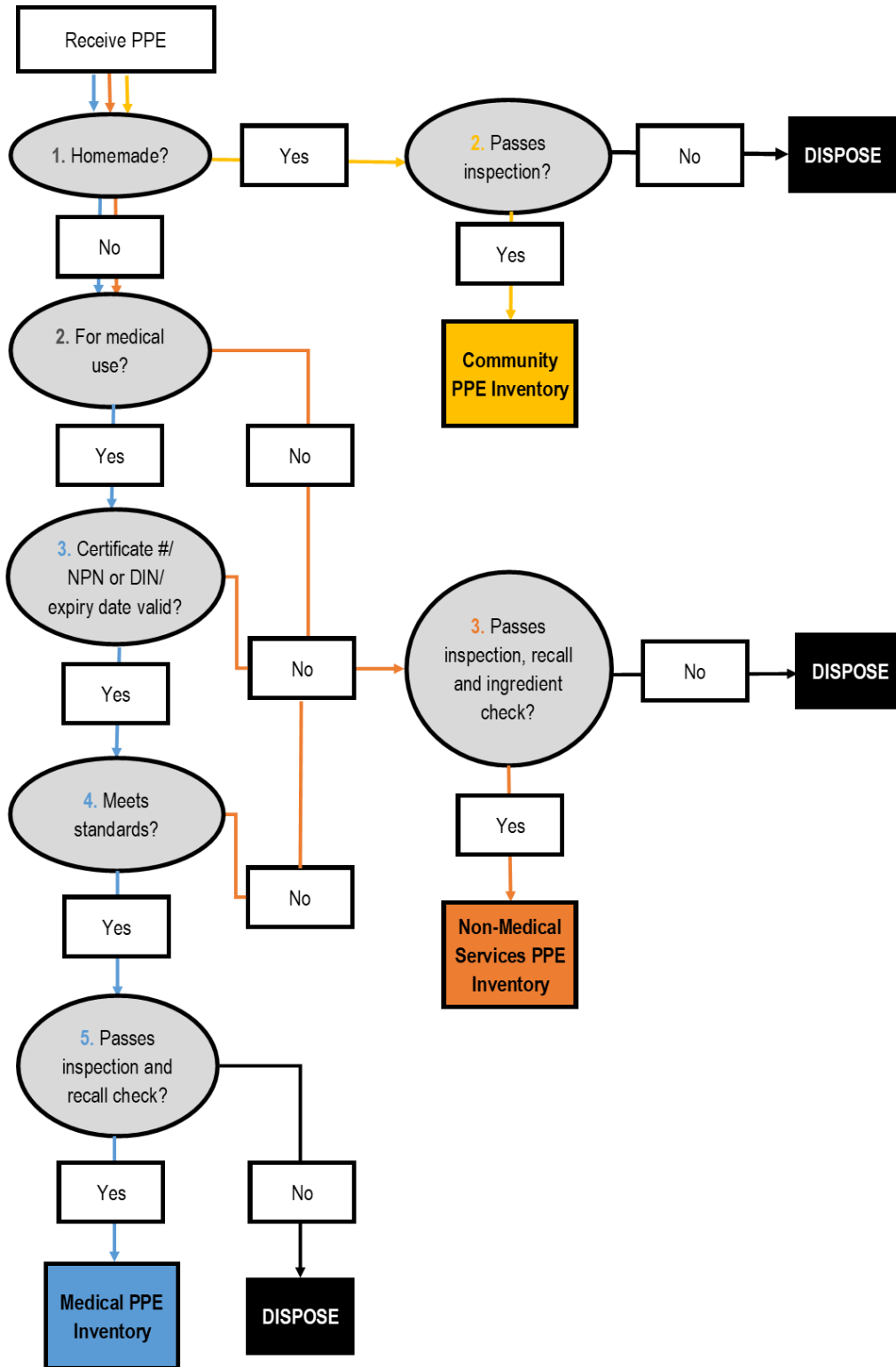
## Suggested PPE Vetting Process

**This is a suggested process that communities can use to vet their PPE and determine whether it should be used, and for what purpose. Communities can choose to adopt this process, make changes as required, or continue to follow any procedures they already have in place for vetting PPE.**

### Other Notes

- PPE that is sourced through government sources like the Northern Supply Chain is already vetted.
  - You should not need to use this process for vetting PPE received through those sources.
  - This process is intended for PPE that is received by donation or ordered from other suppliers.
- Having a list of reliable suppliers and vendors that you trust to order from is a good way of making sure bad PPE stays out of the community.
  - Reliable suppliers are more likely to have their own processes in place to check the quality of the products that they sell.
- It is important to check the quality of hand sanitizer and keep your community's supply securely stored.
  - Some hand sanitizer in Canada has been contaminated with methanol.
  - **METHANOL IS POISONOUS IF CONSUMED AND CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH EFFECTS**, including blindness, organ failure and death.
  - If you are worried that someone has consumed hand sanitizer with methanol in it, seek medical care for them **IMMEDIATELY**.
  - Communities may also wish to consider where some of the hand sanitizer will be used, depending on its scent.
    - Some hand sanitizer, especially sanitizer made with technical-grade ethanol under Health Canada's interim authorization, has been found to smell very much like beverage liquor, especially tequila. This may be triggering for people with alcohol use disorders, so it should be used with caution in some settings.
- Extra medical PPE inventory can be directed to non-medical services or the community PPE inventory, and extra non-medical services PPE can go into the community PPE inventory.
- Even PPE that passes this process should be discarded immediately if it causes any problems for the people using it, like rashes, allergic reactions, or difficulty breathing.
  - Contact Health Canada for manufactured PPE, as well as the supplier or donor of this PPE, to let them know about the issue.

## Suggested Process Flow Chart





## Detailed Process

### Receiving PPE

**1. Is the donated PPE homemade (example: handsewn cloth masks)?**

If **yes**, divert to **Community PPE Stream** and follow the process from there.

**2. a) Collect the following information for manufactured PPE, if possible:**

- **What is the brand name?**
- **What is the expiry date?**
- **What is the product's certificate number?**
- **Where were the items manufactured?**
- **Where have the items been stored?**
- **How long have those items been stored in that location?**
- **Are there any labels on the packaging?**
- **Are all of the items in their original packaging (i.e., have the boxes been opened before)?**
- **Is there any other information you think we should have regarding this product?**

**b) Has the PPE been manufactured for medical use or for non-medical use?**

This can often be determined by checking the packaging or the product listing for the PPE.

PPE that was *not* manufactured for medical use will usually be described with some version of the following terms:

- non-medical grade.
- civilian.
- non-medical use.

If you cannot determine whether the PPE was manufactured for medical use or not from the packaging or the product description, ask if the supplier can provide that information.

If the supplier cannot provide that information, consider it as being manufactured for non-medical use.

If manufactured for *medical use*, go to **medical stream**.

If manufactured for *non-medical use*, go to **non-medical services stream**.

## Medical Stream

3. a) **Is the following information available for the donated PPE?**
- **Certificate number or name registered under with the FDA (if PPE manufactured outside of North America): If the supplier was unable to provide this information at the time of donation, check the packaging.**
  - **Expiry date: If the supplier was unable to provide this information at the time of donation, check the packaging.**

If **no**, divert PPE to **Non-Medical Services Stream** and continue the process from there.

- b) **Is the PPE past its expiry date?**

If **yes**, divert PPE to **Non-Medical Services Stream**.

- c) **Search the manufacturer's name or enter the certificate number provided into the Registration or FEI Number field, at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfRL/rl.cfm>.**

- **Is the certificate number valid?**
- **Is the vendor approved to sell the type of item in North America (e.g. isolation gown, surgical mask) that you are vetting?**

If **no** to either of these questions, divert to **Non-Medical Services Stream** and continue the process from there.

- d) **For HAND SANITIZER, locate the Natural Product Number (NPN) or Drug Identification Number (DIN) on the product label. Check the NPN or DIN to see if it appears on the list of hand sanitizers authorized by Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/hand-sanitizer.html#tbl1> Is this hand sanitizer on the list?**

If **no**, divert to **Non-Medical Services Stream** and continue the process from there.

4. **Does the PPE meet the specifications/guidance for use in medical procedures? This information can usually be found on the product packaging.**

ITEM	SPECIFICATIONS/GUIDANCE	MORE INFORMATION
<i>Masks</i>	Meets one of the following ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials American Society of Testing and Materials) standards levels.	<a href="#">Health Canada link</a>

		<b>Bacterial Filtration Efficiency (BFE) %</b>	<b>Particle Filtration Efficiency (PFE) %</b>	<b>Delta P Differential Pressure (mm H<sub>2</sub>O/cm<sup>2</sup>)</b>	
	<b>ASTM Level 1</b>	≥95	≥95	<4.0mm H <sub>2</sub> O	
	<b>ASTM Level 2</b>	≥98	≥98	<5.0mm H <sub>2</sub> O	
	<b>ASTM Level 3 (with 160 mm Hg fluid resistance)</b>	≥98	≥98	<5.0mm H <sub>2</sub> O	
<i>Gowns</i>	Either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Canadian Standards CSA Z314</li> <li>2. American National Standards Institute and Association of the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation - ANSI/AAMI PB70</li> <li>3. European Standards - EN 13795</li> </ol>				<a href="#">Health Canada link</a>
<i>Gloves</i>	Any one of the several standards recognized by Health Canada; please see link to the right for a complete list.  Latex gloves should be avoided due to potential allergic reactions to this material; nitrile gloves are preferable.				<a href="#">Health Canada Link</a>
<i>Face shields</i>	ANSI/ISEA Z.87.1 (2015), American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices CSA Z94.3 (2020), Eye and Face Protectors CSA Z94.3.1 (2016), Guideline for Selection, Use, and Care of Eye and Face Protectors BS EN 166 (2002), Personal Eye Protection. Specifications.				<a href="#">Health Canada Link</a>
<i>Sanitizer</i>	70-90% alcohol ASTM E1174 EN 1500				<a href="#">Health Canada Link</a>

If **no**, divert to **Non-Medical Services Stream** and continue the process from there.

5. **a) Once the PPE has been received by your organization or community, do a quick inspection of the PPE to determine if it is acceptable for use. Was the packaging open or otherwise compromised before it was received?**

If **yes**, divert PPE to **Non-Medical Services Stream**.

**b) Open one box and inspect at least one item of PPE. Does the item have any of the following defects?**

<i>Masks</i>	Tears, stains, discoloration, or spotting? Broken or cracked ear straps?
<i>Gowns</i>	Rips, tears, stains, discoloration, or spotting?
<i>Gloves</i>	Tears, stains, or discoloration? Try on a pair; are they so thin that they are in danger of tearing? Or so thick that it hinders movement?
<i>Face shields</i>	Does the material cause distortion? Cracks, scratches, or other flaws?
<i>Sanitizer</i>	Strong, unpleasant odours? Signs of mold, debris, or other contamination in the sanitizer? Does anything about the label seem "off"? (For example: poor printing, missing information, strangely sized logos, spelling mistakes.) These can be signs of counterfeit products.
<i>Other PPE</i>	Any issues or defects that you think would compromise its performance?

If **yes**, **DISPOSE** of the PPE.

**c) For hand sanitizer, check the name, NPN or DIN, and batch against this list of recalled hand sanitizer: <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2020/73385a-eng.php>. Is this hand sanitizer on the recall list?**

If **yes**, **DISPOSE** of the hand sanitizer.

**6. The PPE can now be accepted into the [medical PPE inventory](#).**

### Non-Medical Services Stream

3. a) Open one box and inspect at least one item of PPE. Does the item have any of the following defects?

<i>Masks</i>	Tears, stains, discoloration, or spotting? Broken or cracked ear straps?
<i>Gowns</i>	Rips, tears, stains, discoloration, or spotting?
<i>Gloves</i>	Tears, stains, or discoloration? Try on a pair; are they so thin that they are in danger of tearing? Or so thick that it hinders movement?
<i>Face shields</i>	Does the material cause distortion? Cracks, scratches, or other flaws?
<i>Sanitizer</i>	Strong, unpleasant odours? Signs of mold, debris, or other contamination in the sanitizer? Does anything about the label seem "off"? (For example: poor printing, missing information, strangely sized logos, spelling mistakes.) These can be signs of counterfeit products.
<i>Other PPE</i>	Any issues or defects that you think would compromise its performance?

If **yes**, **DISPOSE** of the PPE.

b) For hand sanitizer, check the name and batch against this list of recalled hand sanitizer: <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2020/73385a-eng.php> Is this hand sanitizer on the recall list?

If **yes**, **DISPOSE** of the hand sanitizer.

c) Health Canada has allowed some hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers that do not fully meet regulatory requirements but do not compromise safety to be sold in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. A list of items authorized under this interim measure can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/products-accepted-under-interim-measure.html>. Does the hand sanitizer appear on this list?

If **no**, can the manufacturer or supplier of this hand sanitizer provide an ingredient list for this hand sanitizer?

If **no**, **DISPOSE** of the hand sanitizer; it is better to be cautious than to bring something potentially dangerous into the community.

d) Do any of the following ingredients appear on the ingredients list? **methanol, methyl alcohol, methylol, methylated spirits, wood alcohol, carbinol, Columbian spirits, hydroxymethane, MeOH, methyl hydroxide, methylene hydrate, wood naphtha, wood spirit, pyroligneous spirit**

If **yes**, **DISPOSE** of the hand sanitizer. Methanol (also described by any of the terms used above) is highly poisonous if anyone consumes a product contaminated with it. Even if only applied to the hands, methanol can cause rashes, eye irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing.

4. The PPE can now be accepted into the **non-medical services PPE inventory**.

## Community PPE Stream

**Note:** Homemade items are not as effective as medical grade PPE and should only be worn by health care providers as a matter of last resort. There is no guarantee that homemade masks will protect against COVID-19; however, widespread community use of masks appears to be effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19 when combined with other measures such as good hand hygiene and appropriate physical distancing.

### 2. Inspect 1-3 items of the homemade PPE that you have received. Do these items have any of the following defects?

<i>Homemade masks</i>	Stains or discoloration? Tears or ripped seams? Unpleasant smells?
<i>Homemade face shields</i>	Cracks, scratches, or other flaws? Broken straps or bands? Does the material cause distortion?
<i>Other homemade PPE</i>	Discoloration, dirt or any signs of contamination? Unpleasant smells?

If **yes**, **DISPOSE** of the PPE.

### 3. The PPE can now be accepted into the **community PPE inventory**.

## Resources for PPE Needs in NAN

- The following lists map out PPE-related resources that are available at health authorities, Tribal Councils, and NAN.
- It can be helpful for communities requesting support for PPE to copy their Tribal Council, Health Authority and NAN (if applicable) in cases of emergency.
  - This will help partners to coordinate between themselves and respond efficiently to the community's request.

## Health Authorities

Organization	Contact	Email/Phone	Resources
<b>Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority</b>	Pauline Mickelson, CRRT lead	<a href="mailto:Pauline.Mickelson@slfnha.com">Pauline.Mickelson@slfnha.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pauline is the contact for SLFNHA executives and pandemic leads for sharing information that might be useful for securing PPE in communities.</li> </ul>
	Rita Kenney	<a href="mailto:Rita.kenny@slfnha.com">Rita.kenny@slfnha.com</a> (807) 737 3928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides logistical support and coordinates delivery of PPE from SLFNHA's supplies to communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Weeneebayko Area Health Authority</b>	Loretta Loon	<a href="mailto:loretta.loon@waha.ca">loretta.loon@waha.ca</a> (249) 313-0123	
	Robert Gagnon	<a href="mailto:robert.gagnon@waha.ca">robert.gagnon@waha.ca</a> (705) 365-0041	

## Tribal Councils

Organization	Contact	Email/Phone	Resources
<b>Wabun Tribal Council</b>	Jean Lemieux, Health Director,	<a href="mailto:Lemj@wabun.on.ca">Lemj@wabun.on.ca</a> (705)268 9066 Ext: 227	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wabun communities submit a request for PPE to Wabun Tribal Council, the Tribal council orders that equipment from their supply.</li> <li>• Wabun prepares PPE supplies for delivery to communities</li> </ul>
<b>Shibogama Tribal Council</b>	Garth Geddes, CRRT representative	<a href="mailto:Garthg@shib.ca">Garthg@shib.ca</a> (807) 737 2662	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support communities with accessing PPE, funding, training.</li> </ul>



Organization	Contact	Email/Phone	Resources
<b>Matawa Health Co-Op</b>	Crystal Bell	<a href="mailto:cbell@matawa.on.ca">cbell@matawa.on.ca</a> (807) 252 1707	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide PPE to communities through charter or road access delivery.</li> <li>• All PPE is delivered to pandemic teams or Health Directors in the communities.</li> <li>• Matawa Health Co-Op sits on multiple tables related to PPE and shares information with communities on how to order equipment that they need.</li> </ul>
<b>Independent First Nations Alliance</b>	June Trout, CRRT representative	<a href="mailto:Jtrout@ifna.ca">Jtrout@ifna.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sits on pandemic planning meetings and shares relevant information with IFNA communities.</li> <li>• Directs concerns that communities have with accessing PPE to the SLFNHA CRRT for further direction</li> </ul>
<b>Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO)</b>	Kimberly Lawson, CRRT representative	<a href="mailto:kimberly.lawson@slfnha.com">kimberly.lawson@slfnha.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates relevant information from SLFNHA CRRT meetings to KO communities.</li> <li>• Any issues will be directed to Kimberly and further accessed by the pandemic team (CRRT).</li> </ul>
<b>Windigo</b>	Allan Tait	<a href="mailto:Jtait@windigo.on.ca">Jtait@windigo.on.ca</a> (807) 737 1585 EXT: 7702	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently supporting PPE access for Windigo communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Mushkegowuk Council</b>	Lucille Uiselt	<a href="mailto:lucilleuiselt@mushkegowuk.ca">lucilleuiselt@mushkegowuk.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orders PPE supplies for communities and distributes them directly; communities do not have to fill out anything.</li> </ul>

## Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Department	Contact	Email/Phone	Resources
<b>COVID-19 Response</b>	N/A	<a href="mailto:emergency@nan.ca">emergency@nan.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on accessing PPE and funding; could support coordinating requests among partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Crisis Response</b>	Lillian Suganaqueb	<a href="mailto:lsuganaqueb@nan.ca">lsuganaqueb@nan.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited supplies of non-medical masks and hand sanitizer.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	Sherry Britton	<a href="mailto:sbritton@nan.ca">sbritton@nan.ca</a> 807 625 4644	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on PPE funding for education and provincial PPE supplies for schools</li> </ul>