

MEMO

Date: November 10, 2020
To: Service Delivery Organizations
From: Provincial Supply Chain Management
Re: Technologist Choice Procedure Masks **Recall**

Concerns have been raised related to the use of Technologist Choice brand procedure masks.

Please note the following information and guidance:

- **Out of an abundance of caution, all Technology Choice brand masks currently in circulation should be pulled from existing stock.**
- All stock will be replaced with an alternate product. Please work through your normal procurement and distribution channels.
- Replacement supplies are anticipated to be distributed before the end of the week.
- Facilities with alternate supply on hand may make the switch immediately.
- Those without alternate supply on hand should be provided with reassurance that the existing procedure masks remain acceptable for use until an alternate supply has been received later this week.
- 2009 Technologist Choice Brand Procedure Masks have been in use during the COVID-19 pandemic both within Manitoba's health system and in other sectors. While these masks were procured for the purposes of H1N1 in 2009/10, they have been stored in temperature controlled warehouses and were approved for distribution in spring 2020 following an OESH/IPC review.
- A further review of these masks occurred in June/July 2020 following concerns raised by staff about skin irritation. While the masks were deemed acceptable for use it was noted that certain individuals may experience skin irritation. As a result, skin injury processes were developed and alternate supplies were identified for those unable to wear the Technology Choice brand.
 - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-ppe-skin-injury-grg.pdf>
 - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-ppe-and-skin-injuries-internal-oh-process.pdf>

Staff from the **Department of Families** are in the process of reaching out to all agency partners and will begin to replenish these masks immediately. Deliveries in Winnipeg will be available as of November 11, 2020 at 8:30am at 114 Garry Street (distribution centre) and delivery to

rural and northern agencies will begin on November 11, 2020 and continue until all masks have been replenished.



Not all masks in circulation fall under the Technologist Choice brand and are safe to continue usage. Until delivery is received, agencies and staff should continue to utilize the stock they have.

Please email FAMIC@gov.mb.ca if distribution issues arise or if you have problems with your shipment.