



Health Care Providers and provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Health care providers in Western Australia (WA) are being impacted by the shortages of PPE items due to global demand associated with COVID-19 and the recent Australian bushfire season. The availability of masks, particularly P2/N95 masks, is limited.

Health care providers throughout WA are required to source PPE through their normal or alternative suppliers.

There are some contingency options where the normal supply chain is unable to meet demands (see below).

National Medical Stockpile

The Commonwealth Department of Health manages the National Medical Stockpile, which coordinates any release of stock.

The Commonwealth Department of Health has distributed some PPE to the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA). Primary health care providers, including GPs, who are unable to obtain supply of PPE through their usual suppliers, may contact WAPHA for assistance.

The WA Health has limited ability to influence distribution from the National Medical Stockpile.

WA Health Contingency Stockpile

The Director General's Delegate manages the WA Health Contingency Stockpile through the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC). Currently PPE from this stockpile is being distributed to Border Nurses tasked by WA Health and as urgent supplies only to close partner health agencies when specifically tasked by the SHICC.

There is no current capacity for this stockpile to be distributed to other agencies such as primary care.

WA Health State Distribution Centre

The WA Health State Distribution Centre is managed by Health Support Services and distributes PPE under business-as-usual supply for all Health Service Providers within WA Health.