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June 7, 2003

Personal Protective Equipment Update

The following is provided to supplement information provided through your materiel management staff regarding personal protective equipment (PPE). This update is on masks.

Regional Coordination

- Coordinators have been identified across the province to:
 - Provide a regional depot for back-up supplies (outside GTA)
 - Identify needs specific to the region
 - Review and approve requests from hospitals in region
 - Coordinate distribution of scarce supplies according to identified need
 - Advise ministry as required

- Regional coordinators are:
 - Central: Robert Cullen
 - North West: Derek Gascoigne
 - North East: Ken Gazdic
 - GTA West: Frances Guglielmo
 - South Central: Len Kaufman
 - GTA East: John King
 - East: Guy Lemay
 - South East: Gord Manning
 - North: Tim Prokopetz
 - South West: Mike Rosser (lead for outside GTA)

- Survey circulated to GTA hospitals June 3 to identify:
 - Status of fit testing
 - Preferred mask(s)
 - Daily requirements

Response to survey poor, survey to be re-sent by June 9

- Standardized weekly order form developed for future planning .

Mask Inventory

- April request by hospitals for consistent supply of masks (3M 8210) rescinded as a result of fit testing. Hospitals sourcing own supplies of optional masks until May 31 when requests made of ministry for additional supplies
- Current inventory of masks by type provided to GTA coordinators
- Regional coordinators outside GTA checking inventory for optional masks
- Preferred mask manufactured in England
- Current inventory of optional masks being prioritized with assistance of coordinators to higher-risk areas
- 3M has agreed to centralize masks inventory to assist with management of scarce resource
- Other optional brands are being sought for fit testing and acquisition.

Other Distribution

- Ministry providing N95 masks to **primary care** physicians in Metro Toronto upon request*
- Ministry providing N95 masks to Public Health Units*
- Public Health Units in Durham, York and Peel providing N95 masks to **primary care** physicians upon request*
- Ministry providing N95 masks to Emergency Medical Services in province upon request*

Mask Fitting

- Required since 1993 for occupational health and safety compliance
- Recommendation of Centres for Disease Control in May, 2003 after reviewing Toronto situation
- Both quantitative and qualitative fit testing acceptable. Qualitative fit testing the norm as quicker and more “portable”
- Standards for fit testing developed by Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

*invoices /tracking provided