

DATE: March 2, 2021

TO: Ontario Hospitals

FROM: Melanie Fraser
Associate Deputy Minister Health Services

SUBJECT: 3M N95 1870+ Respirators: Availability from Provincial Production as of April 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a surge in the need for N95 respirators. The Ontario Government is building greater stability of supply and consistent high quality through domestic production of PPE for the province. As part of this domestic production strategy, the Ontario Government has made a five-year commitment to purchase a large annual quantity of the NIOSH-certified N95 3M™ Aura™ Healthcare Particulate Respirator and Surgical Mask 1870+ model from a new 3M production line in Brockville, Ontario starting in April 2021. This supply will support all the needs of the Ontario public service and Ontario Healthcare sector employees for the next five years and beyond.

The 1870+ model is fluid resistant and fits a wide range of facial shapes and sizes. Based on historical usage and clinical feedback we expect this model to be preferred by most clinicians.

The province will start with the distribution of 1870+ models beginning April 1, 2021 to allow for immediate fit testing and use. While this new five-year production commitment will bring a strong supply of N95 respirators for Ontario, established organizational policies on usage and conservation for N95s will still apply.

Distribution Channels:

To support immediate delivery of these masks, ordering and distribution of the 1870+ model will follow current Ontario PPE pandemic supply processes during 2021:

1. **Hospitals that are served through a Shared Service Organization (SSO) managed warehouse** will receive this product through the standard SSO ordering and delivery methods.
2. **Hospitals without an SSO managed warehouse** will order this product along with other Pandemic PPE supplies through the current PPE pandemic order request process used in their Region.
3. **Emergency Supply:** Hospitals can continue to request emergency N95 supply through the current process for other N95 models that are available through MEOC.

Fit Testing Verification Is Needed:

All organizations must ensure each user has completed fit testing on their chosen N95 model within the past two years. Your organization can commence fit testing staff on the 1870+ model in early April.

Included here for your use is a list of some qualified providers that provide fit testing services to support any internal resources you have.

Given this new source of secure domestic production, it is recommended that each hospital move as many of their staff to the 1870+ as soon as possible.

Next Steps:

- Please submit any questions on this preferred Ontario supply of N95s to SCO.Supplies@ontario.ca and they will be forwarded to the implementation team for inclusion in a FAQ document.
- A technical briefing will be set up on March 15, 2021 to provide more details of the ordering and delivery process for those Hospitals without an SSO managed warehouse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fraser', is positioned above the printed name.

Melanie Fraser
Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services
Ministry of Health