



March 30, 2020

Thank you all for the important work you are doing every day in our health care system.

We have had a lot of questions from our members about cohorting, which is limiting employment to one facility as we do during outbreaks. Provincial protocols recommend cohorting of staff during outbreaks as much as possible to minimize inter-facility spread. We are told that at this time there are no outbreaks.

We know that many health care providers hold positions in more than one facility of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), affiliates, or other allied health providers like private personal care homes or private long-term care homes. At this time there is no formal action or directive being given to minimize or restrict the movement of staff between the SHA care facilities or between the SHA and any external group or organizations as part of the provincial COVID-19 response.

The government has posted personal protective equipment (PPE) information [here](#).

We have heard some concerning issues around PPE, including limits of one mask per shift or shortages. Please contact us at the numbers below if you have PPE concerns. Your health and safety are always our most important priority. Please contact us if you have concerns about PPE.

We have also had a number of calls from you about the changing procedures and testing for MRSA and VRE and your concerns around this. We raised this with the Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Health Authority this morning and will provide updated information as soon as we can. This is what the SHA has communicated in regard to this at this point: Infection Prevention and Control is confident that in these times of heightened awareness and training in proper infection prevention and control practices, our patients and residents will not be placed at a greater risk of infection.

We are here for you, so please call us or email us.

- Region 1: 306-445-6433 cupe5111pres@sasktel.net
- Region 2: 306-922-0600 region2gvp@sasktel.net
- Region 3: 306-757-7925 Cupe5430-r3@sasktel.net
- Region 4: 306-842-1559 5430region4gvp@sasktel.net
- Region 5: 306-783-1396 renkas4980@sasktel.net
- Main office: 306-546-2185

Please stay safe and healthy.