



Temporary provision of P2/N95 respirators and eye protection (in the form of face shields or goggles) to pharmacists directly administering the Covid-19 vaccinations.

This fact sheet is provided to ensure consistent and transparent management of the temporary extension of P2/N95 respirators and eye protection, to pharmacists directly involved with administering of the COVID-19 vaccinations in a community pharmacy setting.

Background:

The Australian Government is continuing to support the COVID-19 booster and vaccination program delivered in community pharmacy. To date, only surgical masks have been available to pharmacies via Primary Health Networks (PHNs). To provide extra support in the community pharmacy setting, the Australian Government will provide temporary additional access to personal protective equipment (PPE) from the National Medical Stockpile (NMS), comprising of P2/N95 respirators and eye protection (in the form of either goggles or face shields) for eligible pharmacists.

Which pharmacy staff are eligible to receive P2/N95 respirators and eye protection?

P2/N95 respirators and eye protection are strictly limited to pharmacists who are directly administering the COVID-19 vaccination. Pharmacies will be required to provide considered and reasonable requests for stock (via their PHN) based on the numbers of eligible clinical staff providing vaccination and the volumes of vaccinations delivered. Compliance checks and audits may be undertaken between vaccination volumes and PPE requests. Under no circumstance are pharmacies to on sell any products provided by the Commonwealth under this arrangement. Guidelines will become available when these arrangements come into effect.

When can eligible pharmacists access P2/N95 respirators and eye protection?

These arrangements will officially come into effect in early 2022, subject to the availability of PPE and delivery logistics. The Pharmacy Guild will advise pharmacies when the arrangement goes live. The Australian Government will also be moving to a new distribution arrangement in 2022, in order to improve efficiency in distribution. These changes will not impact ordering arrangements.

How can pharmacies access the P2/N95 respirators and eye protection?

Pharmacists can submit orders for available stock of P2/N95 respirators and eye protection to their Primary Health Network (PHN), via the existing process used by pharmacists to access surgical masks. During the ordering process, pharmacies will be required to provide the PHN with the APHRA number of the relevant pharmacist (trained to provide COVID vaccinations) for whom the P2/N95 respirators and eye protection is sought. Contact details of your local PHN can be found at: [Your local Primary Health Network | Australian Government Department of Health](#).

Can I access the P2/N95 respirators and eye protection for other pharmacists and pharmacy staff who are not involved in administering the Covid-19 vaccine?

No. There is limited stock of PPE. The temporary extension of the P2/N95 respirators and eye protection to pharmacies is strictly limited to pharmacists who are directly administering COVID-19 vaccinations.

How long will this arrangement be in place for eligible pharmacists?

The provision of P2/N95 respirators and eye protection for pharmacists directly involved with COVID-19 vaccinations is expected to end on 31 March 2022.

Why is this a temporary measure?

The provision of P2/N95 respirators and eye protection to eligible pharmacists is intended to provide additional protection while the vaccination program provides boosters to those already vaccinated and vaccinations to recently eligible children (aged 5-11) in early 2022.

Can I still access surgical masks from my PHN?

Yes, surgical masks can still be sourced under the ongoing Tranche 4 arrangements.

This document should be read as an addendum to Tranche 4 - Distribution of PPE through PHNs: Tranche 4, surgical masks and P2/N95 respirators for general practice, community pharmacy, and allied health - August 2020. [Distribution of PPE through PHNs: Tranche 4, surgical masks and P2/N95 respirators for general practice, community pharmacy, and allied health](#)