PPE Application form for Allied Health

# Background

Surgical masks supplied in this tranche are intended to be provided to general practices and, when no local commercial supply is available, allied health and community pharmacies:

* For the protection of health professionals and practice/pharmacy staff in direct contact with people presenting with fever and/or respiratory symptoms including cough, sore throat and/or shortness of breath
* For provision to people who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, for the protection of other patients and staff, and of the public while the patient returns home. There is no need for the general public or health workers to wear masks unless they are dealing with symptomatic patients.

Further guidance on the use of surgical masks can be found at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-on-the-use-ofsurgical-masks>.

# Surgical masks now available for Allied Health under limited conditions

Allied health professionals are now eligible for limited access to the supply for the use of their staff when there is no available commercial supply and they are working in higher-risk clinical areas, and with higher risk vulnerable patients. Given the diverse nature of the allied health sector, when determining whether allocation of masks is appropriate, PHNs have been asked to consider:

* The likelihood of the worker having direct or close contact with high-risk patients who are presenting with fever and/or respiratory symptoms. For example: a respiratory physiotherapist working with patients with cough, sore throat and/or shortness of breath, as compared to an exercise physiologist who is can avoid people with respiratory symptoms through screening processes or deliver services via telehealth
* The extent to which the allied health professional can manipulate their environment or practice method to reduce the chance of transmission. For example: due to the nature of their work, a diagnostic radiographer cannot easily change their mode of practise or environment, whereas a dietitian or psychologist may be able to continue to provide services through telehealth.
* The relative vulnerability of the patients that the allied health professionals are treating. For example: where the allied health professional is routinely treating patients who are immunocompromised, or those who are elderly or disabled. There remains an assumption that allied health professions will, where possible, not see patients with respiratory symptoms or at a higher risk of COVID-19 unless required to as part of their core business (for example: in most cases an optometrist can defer seeing a patient with respiratory symptoms until that person is well).

If you are a private allied health organisation, are listed on the [Tasmanian Health Directory](https://www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/for-health-professionals/tasmanian-health-directory/) and meet the considerations above, you may apply for an allocation of 50 surgical masks using the form on Page 2 of this document.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Masks distributed through PHNs **cannot be sold as commercial stock**

## Surgical Mask application form for private allied health organisations (listed on the Tasmanian Health Directory)

Name of organisation: 

Address: 



Specialty: 

Person authorised to complete this form 

Contact number 

Declaration

I declare that my organisation

* Does not have access to a commercial supply of surgical masks
* Has the potential to have direct or close contact with vulnerable patients or high-risk patients who are presenting with fever and/or respiratory symptoms
* Cannot change our service model or environment to sufficiently reduce the chance of transmission

Signed:  Date: 

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