

PEI Civil Service Mask Protocol

As of July 16, 2020

Sites and services have implemented operational plans and modifications and safety protocols over the last few months, such as physical distancing, the installation of physical barriers, as well as ensuring hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning and screening protocols are in place. Masks do not need to be worn in areas where physical distancing is maintained or a physical barrier, such as plexiglass, is used.

Non-personal protective equipment (PPE) controls should be put into place before masks are considered. The following measures are most effective to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace; it is critical that these measures continue:

- Staying home when ill
- Limiting the number of people in the workplace at any given time by having people work remotely where possible, limiting public access, modifying staff scheduling, meeting virtually or via teleconference, and offering virtual services.
- Physical distancing (2 metres/6 feet) at all times in your workplace and common areas such as elevators, stairs, lunchrooms, etc.
- Washing your hands and not touching your face with unwashed hands
- Covering your cough or sneeze with tissues or your sleeve
- Enhanced cleaning of commonly touched surfaces

What if physical distancing cannot be maintained and a physical barrier is not possible at my workplace?

Where a department determines that employees absolutely cannot maintain 6 feet physical distance, and a physical barrier is not possible, they may provide non-medical masks to employees in accordance with CPHO guidelines at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/masks-workplace-guidance>. If you have questions, please contact your manager. If managers or directors require assistance in accessing or procuring non-medical masks, they should contact their respective Department Emergency Services Officer (DESO).

It is important to note that some departments may have more specific safety requirements regarding masks and other PPE in place given the nature of their services and this is not meant to supersede that direction.

What if I still want to wear a non-medical mask at work even though physical distancing can be maintained or physical barriers are in place?

An employee may choose to wear a non-medical mask in their workplace where physical distancing is maintained or a physical barrier is in place, however they should follow the guidelines outlined by CPHO at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/wearing-non-medical-masks-community> and are responsible for providing their own masks. Please be mindful when purchasing cloth masks that they are appropriate for the workplace.

What about clients and visitors?

The Chief Public Health Office strongly recommends non-medical mask use in the community in public indoor places where they are not able to keep a distance of 6 feet. Sites and services are asked to encourage clients and visitors to wear their own non-medical masks when they are not able to keep a distance of 6 feet.

Important to Note:

Masks are effective in protecting those around the person wearing them, rather than protecting the wearer themselves. Good screening protocols, hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible remain vital in containing the spread of COVID-19.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact your Manager or your departmental Human Resource Manager directly to discuss.