

Alternative Products during COVID-19 – April 23, 2020 1510

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This message is to inform clinical staff and practitioners what to expect regarding the COVID-19 related product substitutions and numerous donations that Spectrum Health continues to graciously accept from our community businesses, individual and suppliers.

In following the CDC's guidelines for managing crisis strategies, Spectrum Health has enlisted clinical staff to thoroughly evaluate donations and newly acquired PPE products for product efficacy and performance. These products range from items that are very similar to our current products to others that are less familiar to us. Any clinical products that are in critical shortage as a result of the COVID-19 crisis are subject to non-traditional, clinically equivalent substitutions.

- Product substitutions will be automatically distributed throughout the system using existing Lawson numbers.
- Distribution of substitutes will begin with products that are most like our current products. They do not require new education for use.

As you begin to see alternative products, please know that each of these have been clinically vetted as being suitable to provide protection during the COVID-19 response while traditional supplies are short.

Examples of clinically equivalent products that look different, but will be used as product substitutes when needed:

Current Spectrum Health approved product:	Example alternative products: *These images are not all inclusive. There are many different types and brands you may encounter.
	
	
	

- **What does the Occupational Health and Safety Administration say about using expired respiratory protection equipment (N95 masks, PAPR's, etc.)?**
 - The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) provides interim guidance to employers during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic regarding Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR § 1910.134) and using expired equipment per the following:
 - In accordance with CDC guidance for optimizing the supply of respirators, employers should prioritize the use of N95 respirators by activity type. When HCP perform or are present for aerosol-generating procedures or procedures where respiratory secretions are likely to be poorly controlled use respirators (including N95 FFRs; other FFRs; non-disposable, elastomeric respirators; and powered, air-purifying respirators (PAPRs)) that are still within their manufacturer's recommended shelf life, if available, before using respirators that are beyond their manufacturer's recommended shelf life.
 - Employers are to make a good faith effort to obtain other appropriate alternative FFRs, reusable elastomeric respirators, or PAPRs, including NIOSH-certified equipment or equipment that was previously NIOSH-certified but that has surpassed its manufacturer's recommended shelf life (in accordance with OSHA's April 3, 2020 memorandum).
- **What is Spectrum Health doing to assure we have the safest respiratory protection equipment available to use?**
 - Spectrum Health is following the guidance and strategies that have been put in place from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help optimize and conserve our respiratory protection equipment.
 - Supply Chain, Infection Prevention, Accreditation/Compliance, and Employee Safety have partnered closely to clinically evaluate respiratory protection equipment that will be utilized by team members. New respiratory protection equipment has been tiered into categories to guide purchasing decisions, distribution, and education requirements, according to OSHA regulations.
 - Despite the severely limited supply of respiratory protection equipment for purchase due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Spectrum Health is making a good faith effort to obtain appropriate protection to keep you safe.
 - Keeping team members safe is a top priority. The national limited availability of respiratory protection equipment may result in use of recalled or expired respiratory protection equipment. Respiratory protection equipment is evaluated to ensure that it is the safest option for you to use at this time even if it is recalled or past the manufacturer's shelf life. Please refer to the [COVID-19 Health Care Professionals Resources page for additional information.](#)

If you have questions about COVID-19 products, email covid19supplies@SpectrumHealth.org