

Operations Division Occupational Health and Safety

Field Visit Report

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OHS Case ID: **04376PJW436**

Field Visit no: **04376PJW437**

Visit Date: **2020-MAY-15**

Field Visit Type: **INITIAL**

Workplace Identification: **NORTH BAY REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE  
50 COLLEGE DRIVE, NORTH BAY, ON, CANADA P1B 0A4**

Notice ID:

Telephone:  
**(705) 474-8600**

JHSC Status:  
**Active**

Work Force #:  
**2300**

Completed %:

Persons Contacted: **PATTY BYERS - JHSC EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE AND INTERIM MANAGER FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH  
JASON DUPRAS - JHSC WORKER REPRESENTATIVE  
SHELLEY BELANGER - EMPLOYEE SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR**

Visit Purpose: **COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION**

Visit Location: **VISIT CONDUCTED OVER THE PHONE**

Visit Summary: **ONE ORDER ISSUED.**

**Detailed Narrative:**

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development investigated a complaint received by the call centre related to workers providing direct care to Covid-19 suspect patients being directed to reuse and re-don procedure masks following breaks, and the supply of non medical grade masks in some units of the workplace.

This complaint was investigated over the phone during a teleconference with the parties listed above.

COMPLAINT

Complainant called in regard to a workers providing direct care to Covid-19 suspect patients being directed to reuse and re-don procedure masks following breaks. The complaint also alleged that workers in some units were being supplied with of non medical grade masks.

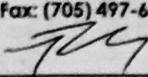
END OF COMPLAINT

INSPECTORS FINDINGS

Workplace representatives indicated to the inspector that Covid-19 suspected patients (or positive patients) are roomed and treated in the D3 unit. At the time of visit there are three Covid-19 suspect patients in this unit. Covid-19 suspect patients are swabbed and while awaiting swab results are treated with contact droplet precautions. The following Personal Protective Equipment are use for contact droplet precautions a procedure mask, face shield, gown, gloves.

Covid-19 suspected or positive patients could also be in the Critical Care Unit, or Emergency Room. At the time of visit All suspect patients were being housed and treated in D3.

The employer has developed a procedural document entitled the "Final Universal Mask Initiative April 7.pdf"

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name _____	<b>Paul Marut</b> OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER 200 FIRST AVENUE WEST, 2ND FLOOR NORTH BAY, ON P1B 9M3 Tel: (705) 690-9473 Fax: (705) 497-6850	Name _____
Title _____		Title _____
Signature _____	Signature 	Signature _____

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at <http://www.olrb.gov.on.ca/english/homepage.htm> for more information.

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This document provides guidance and instruction pertaining to the use of procedural masks to both health care workers providing direct clinical care and/or entering clinical areas and to staff who do not provide direct patient care or enter clinical areas. This document indicates health care workers providing direct clinical care and/or entering clinical areas will be provided 2 procedural masks per shift. Should the mask become soiled, damaged or difficult to breathe through during shift it should be changed. This document also states while at work, a procedure mask should be worn continuously without removing it between patient encounters.

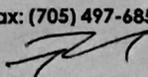
This document instructs workers to safely remove their mask when in the process of eating or drinking (ie. on breaks), to store the mask in the employer provided paper bag or on a suitable flat surface, and then to replace the mask back on their face following eating. The process described for drinking is similar but requires only partial mask removal. This initiative took effect Wednesday April 8, 2020.

The employer has recently issued a word document entitled "Universal Mask initiative follow up". This document directs workers to "conserve your mask for as long as possible, but once wet, damaged, soiled, or removed (e.g., to eat or drink), you should immediately dispose of the mask. In some circumstances more than more than 2 masks/shift may be necessary." Workplace parties were unsure if the direction to dispose of masks removed for the process of eating or drinking was meant to supersede the previous initiative or if this direction was incorrectly included in this document.

Discussed the different uses of use of procedural masks. The Final Universal Mask Initiative April 7.pdf does not make any distinction between the reasons for the use of procedural masking. Procedural masks worn to provide source control have the purpose of reducing the transmission of mouth or nasal discharge from the wearer to those they are in contact with. Procedural masks worn as PPE by workers practicing contact droplet precautions are protective equipment for the wearer of the mask.

Health care workers wearing procedural masks in the course of their work with Covid-19 suspect patients in the D3 unit at the time of visit are understood to be wearing procedural masks as a PPE. The workers in this unit have been directed to conserve their masks during breaks and lunches by following donning and doffing procedures so as not to contaminate the mask. Order issued.

As of the Priority Inventory Main and Pandemic - May 15/2020 report there are 27,250 MASK PROC 160 EARLOOP 1073 procedural masks in the inventory. There are approximately 10,000 other procedural and surgical type masks listed in this report as well.

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It was indicated to the inspector at the time of visit that worker on unit D3 keep the same mask when given treatment between each Covid suspect patient. The workers work between suspect Covid patients and other rooms containing non-Covid suspect patients without removal of the masks.

Concern was raised to the inspector that workers on the inpatient surgical unit could be exposed to the danger of working while wearing non medical grade masks. Two forms of non medical grade masks have been noted in the workplace over the past month. It is unclear at the time of visit of the purpose of the procedural masks in this unit and whether any non medical grade masks are in use at this time. It was communicated that medical grade category 2 or 3 masks were noted on this unit as late as yesterday by a participant of this meeting. The inspector will continue to investigate this concern. There was not concern pertaining to the grade of mask being used in the D3, critical care or emergency units at the time of visit.

Discussed posting requirements for this field visit. This visit shall be posted for a period of at least 14 days in a conspicuous location accessible to workers.

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Notice ID:

Order(s) /Requirement(s) Issued To:

To: **NORTH BAY REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE** Org/Ind Role **Primary Employer**

Mailing Address:  
**50 COLLEGE DR, NORTH BAY, ON, CA P1B 0A4**

Order(s) /Requirement(s) Description:

You are required to comply with the order(s) /requirement(s) by the dates listed below.

No	Type Code	Act/Reg	Year	Sec.	Sub Sec.	Clause	Text of Order/Requirement	Comply by Date
1	Fort 04376PJVZ438	OHSA	1990	25	2	h	The employer shall take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect workers from COVID-19. At the time of the visit it was noted that workers in the D3 Covid Unit providing direct care to COVID-19 suspected patients are being instructed to reuse procedural masks after breaks and lunches. The employer shall ensure if masks are removed they are not reused. This practice poses a risk of transmission of infection.	

Recipient

Inspector Data

Worker Representative

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Paul Marut**  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR  
PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER  
200 FIRST AVENUE WEST, 2ND FLOOR

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

NORTH BAY, ON P1B 9M3

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