

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19
COMMITTEE**

Special Bulletin – ID-IPC – Community Facemasks – Nov 16 2020

COVID-19 patient care and infection prevention and control (IPC)

Horizon no longer accepting donated community cloth facemasks

Horizon will no longer be accepting donations of community cloth facemasks. This decision is based on the organization's ability to assess and meet new Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidelines regarding community cloth facemasks (non-medical masks and face coverings).

PHAC guidelines related to [Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings](#) states: "Non-medical face masks can be homemade or purchased and should be made of a least three layers (two layers should be tightly woven material fabric, such as cotton or linen and the third (middle) layer should be a filter-type fabric, such a non-woven polypropylene fabric)." A well-designed and well-fitting mask provides protection to others by containing the respiratory droplets or saliva exhaled by the wearer through speaking, coughing or sneezing.

Donated community cloth facemasks were used to augment the supply of manufactured non-medical grade facemasks that are provided to outpatients and visitors. The manufactured non-medical facemasks provided to outpatients and visitors meet the current guidelines and will continue to be provided to outpatients and visitors that do not have their own mask.

Horizon is grateful to members of the community, for their generosity in donating more than 7,500 community cloth facemasks over the last several months. These facemasks were distributed to visitors and outpatients.