

Personal Protective Equipment Strategy

NSW Health is implementing a statewide strategy to **ensure all health workers have the personal protective equipment (PPE) they need** to protect them at work.

This summary tells you about the strategy and how to stay up-to-date with the latest guidance on PPE as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

Why does NSW Health need a PPE strategy?

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the landscape of healthcare, changing how we deliver care and ensure the safety of our patients and health workers.

PPE is an essential element in preventing the spread of the virus. It includes several different types of equipment such as:



NSW Health's PPE strategy sets out how we will provide personal protective equipment to protect our health workers and patients, and keep people informed.

The objective of the strategy is to **ensure the safety of our patients and clinicians by providing adequate supply and clarity on the appropriate use of PPE at all times.**

Who is involved in the strategy?

To develop, manage and implement the PPE strategy involves a coordinated effort across NSW Health organisations.

Its priorities are informed by evidence and guidance from the Clinical Excellence Commission and the Agency for Clinical Innovation's Critical Intelligence Unit which provides the latest evidence-based advice during the pandemic and beyond.

Collaborating on the strategy involves people and teams from many different parts of NSW Health:

- Local health districts and specialty health networks
- NSW Ministry of Health
- State Health Emergency Operations Centre
- Clinical Excellence Commission
- Agency for Clinical Innovation
- Health Education and Training Institute
- HealthShare NSW
- Whole of Government Procurement Group.

What does the PPE strategy mean for health workers?

The early challenges faced in NSW Health's COVID-19 response have shaped the PPE strategy.

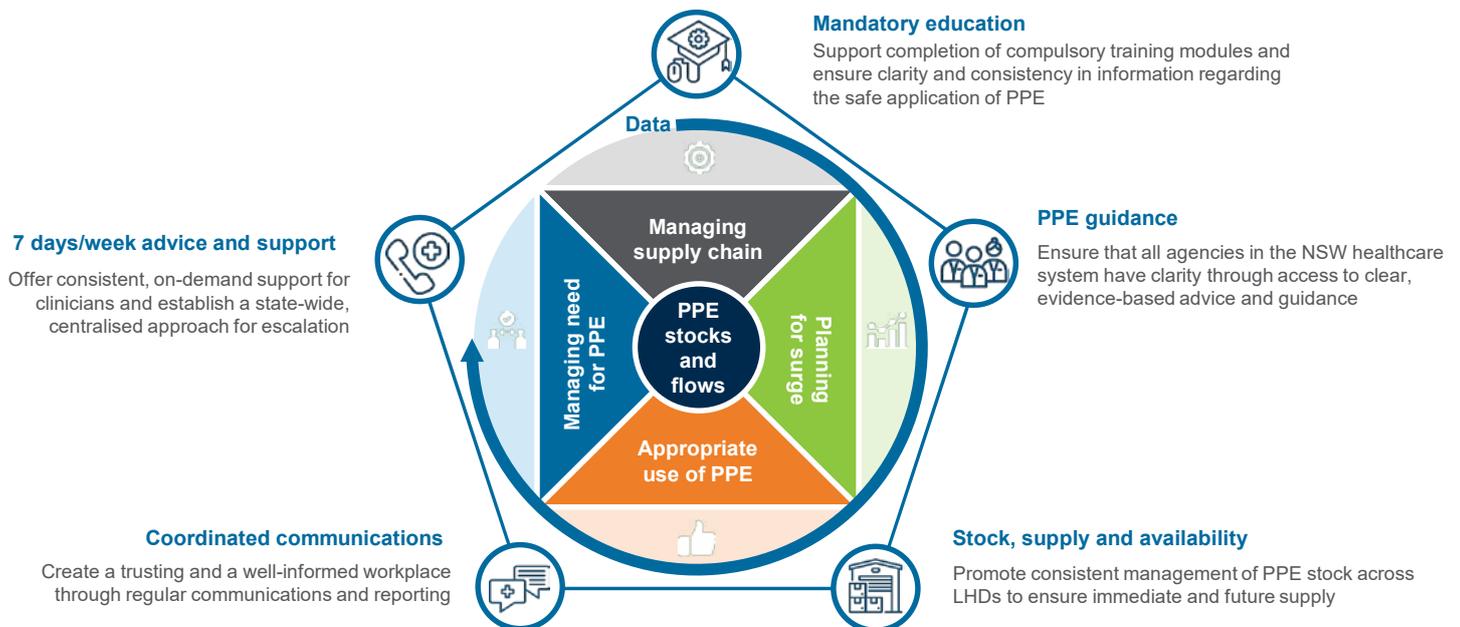
Putting it into practice across every local health district, specialty health network and organisation will mean:

- high-quality personal protective equipment is always available for the people who need it.
- PPE is used to its best effect in the right circumstances.
- people can access the latest training, education and guidance on the use of PPE whenever they need them, wherever they are.
- we have the best systems, tools and processes in place to manage business as usual and extraordinary circumstances.

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How will the PPE strategy achieve its objective?

The strategy is split into five workstreams to ensure the safety of patients and health workers by providing PPE and clarifying how to use it:



The strategy details the transition from our initial pandemic response to maintaining business as usual, while also preparing for potential outbreaks and disruptions.

Using the right systems, tools and processes we intend using lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure we are able to respond proactively.

Early achievements in NSW Health's response to COVID-19

We are reflecting on the early lessons learnt from our COVID-19 response and NSW Health has already made significant progress, for example:

- In the 12 months to 30 June 2020, total whole of government spend on PPE in NSW was \$1.1 billion. That will rise to \$1.7 billion in the financial year to 30 June 2021.
- Statewide stock on hand at the Whole of Government Warehouse as at 9 August 2020 included 95 million surgical masks and 41.5 million P2/N95 masks.
- The Clinical Excellence Commission has reviewed approximately 200 new PPE products.
- Between the end of January and 17 June 2020 over 50 new COVID 19 resources were published on the CEC website.

How can I stay informed?

- Visit the [PPE webpage on the NSW Health website](#).
- Visit the Clinical Excellence Commission's [Personal Protective Equipment](#) webpage for resources including guidance, training videos and posters.
- Visit the [COVID-19 Communities of Practice website](#).
- Install the [NSW Health COVID-19 MedApp](#) which provides real-time information to frontline and other NSW Health staff.