

COVID-19 and personal protective equipment (PPE)

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges and disruptions to PPE supply chains causing ebbs and flows during the pandemic.

These experiences highlight the importance of being ready to respond to a surge in demand for PPE, including natural disasters and crises.

The Queensland Government has established a process to coordinate and prioritise availability of appropriate PPE.

This factsheet provides guidance for regionally based Queensland Government staff, non-government organisations (NGOs) and local government authorities about how to acquire PPE during a disaster event.

In line with typical disaster management arrangements, local governments and NGOs should have plans in place before a disaster occurs and ensure they have consulted their usual suppliers to understand their capacity.

Definition of PPE

PPE is clothing or equipment designed to be worn by someone to protect them from the risk of injury or illness.

For example, PPE in the context of this factsheet can include:

- hand sanitiser
- face masks
- gloves
- face shields
- disposable gowns.

Acquiring PPE for regional Queensland Government staff, NGOs and local governments

Queensland Contracts Directory

Buyers in the first instance should approach the [Uniforms and PPE procurement arrangement \(GGS0077-2\)](#).

The [Uniforms and PPE procurement arrangement \(GGS0077-2\)](#) lists 47 diverse suppliers, including regional businesses, Indigenous businesses, social enterprises and manufacturers.

Eligible customers with access to the [QCD website](#) (including approved NGOs), can use a [selection tool](#) to find a supplier that suits their needs.

PPE supplier portal

[A portal of alternate PPE suppliers](#) has been established by the Queensland Government and is available to the public.

Suppliers on the portal have undergone limited vetting. Buyers should always apply suitable due diligence regarding the quality of suppliers, products and services.



The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) stockpile

The SDCC has acquired a stockpile of PPE, face masks and hand sanitiser to support local and district disaster management groups during a disaster event.

Local government authorities must ensure they can access enough PPE to rapidly establish a safer location with minimal notice and support the community until additional supplies can be delivered.

The SDCC stockpile has been prioritised to support the operations of:

- cyclone shelters
- place of refuges
- evacuation centres
- recovery hubs.

The PPE in the SDCC stockpile is for use by community members who attend a safer location or recovery hub.

State government agencies are required to provide necessary PPE for their own staff.

Access to the SDCC stockpile will be through the typical Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) Request for Assistance (RFA) process.

About the Critical Supply Reserve

The Queensland Government, through Queensland Health has established a state-wide reserve of PPE to protect workers and communities. The reserve has up to 12 months of stock. It is only accessible after usual supply chains have failed.

Access to the critical supply reserve needs approval from Queensland Health's Chief Medical Officer.

Considerations when buying PPE

The following are important considerations when purchasing PPE:

- stock holdings - ensure you meet your immediate needs and allow time to replenish goods
- lead times - how long will stock take to reach you?
- expiry dates – many products have use-by dates, don't over order and remember to turn stock over
- distribution - consider how you will get products where they are needed
- storage - some products are classified as dangerous goods and need special storage facilities.

More information

Additional information is available via the following links:

- [Queensland Contracts Directory](#), contact the help desk at bsu@hpw.qld.gov.au or 07 3215 3699
- [Uniforms and PPE arrangement \(GGS0077-21\)](#)
- [Support Toolkit \(disaster.qld.gov.au\)](#) and the [RG.1.196 Request for Assistance \(RFA\) process – Reference Guide](#)
- [About the Critical Supply Reserve Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve | Queensland Health.](#)