

Appendix M:

Private Physician Office Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

An unknown proportion of the public will present to private physicians' offices for H1N1 assessment. Physicians, staff and patients will require some forms of personal protective equipment depending on patient symptoms, staff proximity to symptomatic patient, and procedures being performed.

Provincial policies may affect the proportion of the public seeking assessment for H1N1 at their family physicians' offices. Current provincial projections are that approximately 10% of the population will become ill, of which 5% to 7.5% of those individuals may require medical assessment.

Assuming also that one in four pandemic influenza patients presents with a companion and that some seasonal influenza patients might also be present in the community (above and beyond pandemic influenza), numbers of PPE required for clinical practices of various sizes are estimated below. It is assumed that one of every ten pandemic influenza patients might require that an N95 respirator (as per current PHAC guidance) be used. Masks and eye protection in parallel with hand hygiene remain key elements in infection control.

The assumptions for which the PPE estimates (below) have been derived, are being reviewed nationally based on continual assessment of the evolving epidemiology, and are therefore subject to change (at which time an update will be posted). In addition, various provincial policy decisions may affect these estimates, particularly if patients are requested to present to alternative sites instead of their family physicians' offices. Medical clinics should also consider the proportion of high-risk patients they typically have (including pregnant women) which may influence the types and amount of PPE required. Given so many variables, the ordering of PPE supplies will be at the physician's discretion, however, it is recommended that each medical clinic ensures the availability of such supplies.

Approximate Additional PPE Numbers for H1N1 Preparedness by Size of Practice

Family practice SIZE (5-10 pairs of goggles are also suggested per physician)	Surgical Masks (for MOAs, nurses, physicians, patients, and companions)	N95, Gowns, & Gloves (for physicians)
1,000 patients	261 – 387	6 – 9
5,000 patients	1,305 – 1,935	29 – 43
10,000 patients	2,610 – 3,870	58 – 86

Adapted from original work by: Timothy Foggin, MD MPH