



## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT FACIAL SHIELD AND MASKS DIRECTLY FROM WORKSAFENB

June 2, 2020

### FACE COVERINGS- WorkSafeNB

The **use of face coverings is a mandatory** requirement when workplaces **cannot** maintain 2m distance, along with active screening and maintaining an employee/visitor log.

Please note that the employer is required to **develop procedures for face covering** selection, use, decontamination (if applicable), storage, handling, limitations, inspection requirements, change-out requirements, and employee training, if face coverings are used.

A **face shield does NOT replace a face covering / mask** in situations where 2 meters separation cannot be maintained.

The **only exception** is if the use of a face covering creates a hazard for the wearer. In that case, and based on a risk assessment, a **face shield which must cover the face and chin** can be used to substitute the face covering.

### FACIAL SHIELDS – Public Health

In terms of equivalency to cloth face coverings, Public Health **does not accept face shields as such**. In the instance where the cloth face covering introduces a hazard for the worker, Public Health will accept the substitute of a face shield, **provided it covers the face and chin**. This must be **demonstrated by a risk assessment and be part of the operational plan**.

It is up to each **employer/owner** to perform a **risk assessment** for their workplace and for different tasks as well as the PPE required in their workplace and this should be part of their operational plan.

It is of the utmost importance that we comply and adhere to the **mandatory** requirements from WorkSafeNB and Public Health on this matter. Our requirements and obligations are to keep ourselves, families, and clients, **SAFE**. We must adapt to the evolving circumstances and changes around the pandemic. Readiness, adaptability, preparation, and practice will allow our businesses to remain open.

Based on direction given by Public Health and by WorkSafeNB, **face shields** are NOT considered equivalent or substitutes to face coverings. Therefore, face shields cannot be used under standard situations to replace the use of face coverings. Use of face shields **in addition to/or over face coverings, is permitted**.

Be kind and stay safe!

We are all in this together.