

Risk Management and Implementation

Instructions

To establish a risk rating follow Steps 1-3:

Step 1 - Consider the *consequences* of the risk in terms of people and financial factors and select the rating (1-5).

Step 2 - Assess the *likelihood* of the risk occurring, using the information under 'Probability' and 'Historical', and select the rating (1-5).

Step 3 - Where the consequences and likelihood ratings meet, in the coloured part of the matrix, this will give you the overall risk rating of L, M, H or E.

Risk matrix									
E: Extreme risk — detailed action plan required H: High risk — needs senior management attention M: Medium risk — specify management responsibility L: Low risk — manage by routine procedures Note: High or Extreme risks must be reported to senior management and require detailed treatment plans to reduce the risk to Low or Medium.					Consequences				
				People	Injuries or ailments not requiring medical treatment	Minor injury or first aid treatment case	Serious injury causing hospitalisation or multiple medical treatment cases	Life threatening injury or multiple serious injuries causing hospitalisation	Death or multiple life threatening injuries
				Financial	1% of budget or <\$5K	2.5% of budget or <\$50K	> 5% of budget or <\$500K	> 10% of budget or <\$5M	>25% of budget or >\$5M
					Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
					1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	Probability	Historical							
	>1 in 10	Is expected to occur in most circumstances	5	Almost certain	M	H	H	E	E
	1 in 10-100	Will probably occur	4	Likely	M	M	H	H	E
	1 in 100-1,000	Might occur at some time in the future	3	Possible	L	M	M	H	E
	1 in 1,000-10,000	Could occur but doubtful	2	Unlikely	L	M	M	H	E
	1 in 10,000-100,000	May occur but only in exceptional circumstances	1	Rare	L	L	M	H	E

Source: Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management, and Australian Capital Territory Insurance Authority (ACTIA) *Risk Management Toolkit*.

NB: The Risk Matrix has been modified to reflect that in the context of health and safety any chance, even a rare occurrence, of a death or multiple life threatening injury is considered extreme.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 1:09 PM
To: ACT Health, HPSOps [REDACTED] Bevan, Vivien (Health); Behm, Claire (Health); [REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn (Health); HECC Communications (Health)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent Teleconference - Distribution of P2 Masks
Attachments: DRAFT - Use of masks - information sheet Jan 2020.docx; DRAFT - Distribution of Government P2 mask stock by ACT pharmacies.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Sorry – here are the documents.

Regards,
 Vanessa

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 1:08 PM
To: ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au> [REDACTED] Bevan, Vivien (Health) <Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au>; Behm, Claire (Health) <Claire.Behm@act.gov.au>; [REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; HECC Communications (Health) <HECC.Communications@act.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent Teleconference - Distribution of P2 Masks

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi all,
 Please see drafts of dot points for pharmacies on mask distribution and on how to properly use masks.
 For comments please by 1330pm.
 Regards,
 Vanessa

-----Original Appointment-----

From: ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 10:22 AM
To: ACT Health, HPSOps; [REDACTED] Bevan, Vivien (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Behm, Claire (Health); [REDACTED] Coleman, Kerryn (Health); HECC Communications (Health)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent Teleconference - Distribution of P2 Masks
When: Monday, 6 January 2020 10:30 AM-11:00 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.
Where: Health Protection Service, Holder

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the distribution of P2 masks in the ACT.

Please call this number for teleconference; 02 51249951

Regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)
 Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate
25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611
health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

Outdoor smoke exposure – use of P2 / N95 masks

Disposable P2 / N95 face masks (also known as respirators) are designed to filter out PM_{2.5} particles, including PM_{2.5} particles from bushfire smoke.

For a P2 / N95 mask to be effective it must be worn correctly to achieve an air-tight seal around the face. Men need to be clean-shaven to wear a P2 mask correctly. They do not provide complete protection and are not designed to be used for extended periods of time.

P2 / N95 masks are only available in adult sizes and will not fit most children aged less than 12 years. Making modifications to adult masks to fit them to children is not recommended.

Wearing a mask is not an alternative to taking measures to avoid exposure to smoke outdoors. Where possible, people should avoid smoke by staying indoors with the windows and doors shut.

Masks are most useful when used for short periods of time when exposure to outdoor smoke cannot be avoided due to individual circumstances. Masks should only be used indoors in exceptional circumstances.

Wearing a P2 / N95 mask can make it harder to breathe and may increase the risk of heat-related illness during hot weather. **ACT Health recommends that people with lung conditions, such as chronic obstructive airways disease, asthma or emphysema, and people with chronic heart conditions, should seek advice from their medical practitioner prior to using these masks.**

Advice for fitting a P2 / N95 mask correctly

1. Remove glasses and hats. Tie back long hair so it does not become tangled in the straps of the mask
2. Put the mask on your face, ensuring the nose piece is at the top of the mask
3. Place the top strap or tie high on the back of your head
4. Move the bottom strap over your head and position it below your ears
5. Compress the mask against the face to ensure a seal across the bridge of the nose
6. Compress the mask to ensure a seal across the cheeks and the face



7. Gently exhale and check air does not escape around the seal. Adjust if necessary.
8. Gently inhale and check the mask is drawn in towards the face and there are no air leaks around the face seal. Adjust as necessary.
9. If there are air leaks that can't be rectified by adjusting the mask, check the mask for defects or try another style of P2 / N95 mask.

Additional information on correct use of P2 / N95 masks

- People with facial hair (including a 1-2 day beard growth) may not be able to achieve an adequate seal between the mask and the wearer's face.
- If you have a chronic lung or heart condition, seek advice from your medical practitioner before using a mask.
- If you feel dizzy, faint or out of breath while wearing a P2 / N95 mask, remove it and go to a place with better air quality and seek medical attention.
- If the mask becomes damaged, soiled, moist or contaminated it should be removed and replaced.
- Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific advice on checking the fit of the individual brands of masks.
- To remain effective masks must be changed regularly, in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



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P2 / N95 masks - distribution of Commonwealth stock by community pharmacies

Eligibility criteria to receive free P2 / N95 masks supplied by ACT Health

Commonwealth stock of P2 / N95 masks supplied to community pharmacies in the ACT **must** only be supplied to people from these sensitive groups:

- Pregnant women;
- People with chronic lung and heart conditions, including:
 - asthma,
 - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema);
 - cystic fibrosis;
 - ischaemic heart disease; and
 - chronic heart failure.
- People aged over 65 years (as they are more likely to have chronic lung and heart conditions).

How many pharmacies will receive Commonwealth stock?

All pharmacies in the ACT will be receiving government stock of masks. Distribution of stock will commence on the afternoon of 6 January 2020. All pharmacies will initially receive 960 masks; a mix of universal and smaller sized masks.

ACT Health is working to secure further Commonwealth stock of masks. More information will be forthcoming.

How many masks can we give to each eligible person?

As stock is limited currently, each eligible person can only be given **two** masks.

Can I charge a service fee to provide these masks?

No, the expectation from ACT Health is that these masks will be provided **completely free of charge** to eligible people.



Accessibility

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Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 2:02 PM
To: PICC01; Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); PICC02
Subject: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability
Attachments: Information sheet - use of masks - 6 Jan 2020.pdf; Talking points – mask availability announcement.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerryn and Karen

Please see attached the talking points and the factsheet on use of mask that has been developed today ahead of the announcement on mask availability. The fact sheet will be provided to pharmacies this afternoon to distribute to people with the masks.

Kerryn – if you can see Karen to finalise the talking points.

I am now going to move on to drafting the webpage text.

Cheers
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



Outdoor smoke – use of P2 / N95 masks

Disposable P2 / N95 face masks (also known as respirators) are designed to filter out PM_{2.5} particles, including PM_{2.5} particles from bushfire smoke.

For a P2 / N95 mask to be effective it must be worn correctly to achieve an air-tight seal around the face. Men need to be clean-shaven to wear a P2 mask correctly. They do not provide complete protection and are not designed to be used for extended periods of time.

P2 / N95 masks are only available in adult sizes and will not fit most children aged less than 12 years. Making modifications to adult masks to fit them to children is not recommended.

Wearing a mask is not an alternative to taking measures to avoid exposure to smoke outdoors. Where possible, people should avoid smoke by staying indoors with the windows and doors shut.

Masks are most useful when used for short periods of time when exposure to outdoor smoke cannot be avoided due to individual circumstances. Masks should only be used indoors in exceptional circumstances.

Wearing a P2 / N95 mask can make it harder to breathe and may increase the risk of heat-related illness during hot weather. **ACT Health recommends that people with lung conditions, such as chronic obstructive airways disease, asthma or emphysema, and people with chronic heart conditions, should seek advice from their medical practitioner prior to using these masks.**

Advice for fitting a P2 / N95 mask correctly

1. Remove glasses and hats. Tie back long hair so it does not become tangled in the straps of the mask
2. Put the mask on your face, ensuring the nose piece is at the top of the mask
3. Place the top strap or tie high on the back of your head
4. Move the bottom strap over your head and position it below your ears
5. Compress the mask against the face to ensure a seal across the bridge of the nose
6. Compress the mask to ensure a seal across the cheeks and the face

7. Gently exhale and check air does not escape around the seal. Adjust if necessary.
8. Gently inhale and check the mask is drawn in towards the face and there are no air leaks around the face seal. Adjust as necessary.
9. If there are air leaks that can't be rectified by adjusting the mask, check the mask for defects or try another style of P2 / N95 mask.

Additional information on correct use of P2 / N95 masks

- People with facial hair (including a 1-2 day beard growth) may not be able to achieve an adequate seal between the mask and the wearer's face.
- If you have a chronic lung or heart condition, seek advice from your medical practitioner before using a mask.
- If you feel dizzy, faint or out of breath while wearing a P2 / N95 mask, remove it and go to a place with better air quality and seek medical attention.
- If the mask becomes damaged, soiled, moist or contaminated it should be removed and replaced.
- Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific advice on checking the fit of the individual brands of masks.
- To remain effective masks must be changed regularly, in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

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Talking points – mask availability announcement

As at 3.45pm, Monday 6 January 2020

Overarching points:

- Following yesterday's announcement on the supply of 100,000 P2/N95 masks from the Commonwealth Government, we have been working to arrange locations across Canberra where the masks will be available to the community.
- I can advise, the ACT Health Directorate is partnering with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to make these masks available through all community pharmacies across Canberra.
- The masks will be available in pharmacies as of tomorrow morning. Masks will also be available through the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service.
- It is important to be clear that this supply of masks, will be available to the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke.
- These groups of particularly sensitive individuals, include:
 - people with existing chronic lung and heart conditions, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, and heart disease
 - all pregnant women, and
 - people over 65 years of age.
- For those in our community that are vulnerable to prolonged outdoor exposure, such as rough sleepers and the homeless, we will continue to make masks available through the Early Morning Centres.
- We know there is still a lot of concern about the availability and use of P2/N95 masks. And we know that for some in our community, it's not possible to avoid the smoke and they would feel more comfortable with access to a mask.
- But we are asking the community to join with us in ensuring that we are supporting the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of the smoke at this time.
- Our firm advice continues to be to stay indoors and out of the smoke as much as possible, closing windows and doors and not using evaporative cooling. We understand this can be frustrating, but it is the best way to minimise your exposure.
- For healthy people who don't have any existing chronic conditions, this means avoiding all prolonged or heavy physical activity outdoors and staying indoors when the smoke is heavy.
- There are also a number of tips for dealing with the smoky conditions available on the ACT Health website, which I would encourage everyone to be aware of.
- The Government will continue to monitor demand for masks in the coming days, and will work closely with Canberra retailers to understand the supply constraints and when new stock will be available.
- ACT Health is also working with specific health sector partners to make available masks to these vulnerable groups where they provide health services.

If asked:

How many masks are being provided to each pharmacy?

- ACT Health Directorate staff are this afternoon distributing masks to pharmacies to have them ready for tomorrow.
- At this stage, each community pharmacy is being provided 960 masks ready for tomorrow.
- We will continue working with pharmacies in the coming days to distribute all the Commonwealth supply.

How many masks will each person get?

- Each eligible person will receive two masks. Further private stock may also be available at pharmacies who regularly stock these masks.

Will people be able to get more masks once their two masks run out?

- ACT Health is also working to secure more Commonwealth stock and we will update the community on this as more information comes to hand.

What about masks for Children and infants?

- P2/N95 masks sold in Australia are usually only available in adult sizes and will not fit most children aged less than 12 years. Therefore, avoiding exposure for children, is the best way to protect them.

COMMONWEALTH SUPPLY

How many masks are available?

- At this time, 100,000 P2/N95 masks have been provided to the ACT from the Commonwealth.
- The Government will continue to monitor demand for masks in the coming days and will work closely with Canberra retailers to understand the supply constraints and when new stock will be available.

Are you going to request more masks from the Commonwealth?

- The Government will continue to monitor demand for masks, and what is available in the private market, and will consider this further in the coming days.

RETAIL

What is the latest update of stock available in retailers?

- As we understand it, new stocks of masks are coming into the Canberra retail market, available through pharmacies and local hardware stores, but is selling out very quickly.
- The best thing to do is to call ahead to providers to check stock.

- The Government is making contact with retailers on a regular basis and is also looking at where we may be able to make further information available to the community. However, as we understand, new stocks are selling out quickly.

Specific health advice:

- We know there is a lot of concern about the smoky conditions – these conditions are unprecedented, and we thank the community for their calm in at this time.
- Our advice continues to be to stay indoors and out of the smoke as much as possible, closing windows and doors and not using evaporative cooling. This is the best way to minimise your exposure.
- Further health advice is on the ACT Health website on the best ways to protect yourself and your family in the conditions.
- If you are concerned about your health, please speak with a health professional.

MASKS

- Evidence shows that P2/N95 masks do filter some smoke, and they are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles like dust occurs regularly.
- However, it is important to remember that using a mask is not an alternative for avoiding exposure to smoke outdoors.
- Masks are most useful for short periods of time when exposure to outdoor smoke cannot be avoided.
- Masks should only be used indoors in exceptional circumstances.
- Masks can also be difficult to fit and use appropriately so it is important to know what to do to ensure you are using them correctly. Further information is on the ACT Health website.

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH INDOOR SMOKE

Here's some tips to help keep your home as smoke free as possible:

- Keep all windows and doors closed.
- Stay in air-conditioned premises and switch the air-conditioner to 'recycle' or 'recirculate' to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building.
- Only use an evaporative cooler if the system is filtered. **Note:** some domestic evaporative coolers are less likely to filter fine particles such as smoke and may introduce smoke inside. If you have any questions about your evaporative cooler, please speak to the manufacturer or place of purchase as models may vary.
- Determine where the gaps are where smoke may be able to enter. Look for obvious signs of draughts – light coming under and around doors and windows and feeling for draughts.
- Keep your pets indoors with clean water and food. Keep pets bedding inside if possible.
- Seal internal cracks and gaps and consider sealing up vent covers.
- Air out your house when the smoke clears.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 2:45 PM
To: Trapani, Bianca (Health); Docherty, Tracey (Health)
Cc: Bevan, Vivien (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health); ACT Health, HPSOps
Subject: For distribution - P2/N95 masks to Pharmacies
Attachments: Information sheet - Distribution of Commonwealth P2 mask stock by ACT pharmacies - 6 Jan 2020.pdf; Information sheet - use of masks - 6 Jan 2020.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Tracey and Bianca,

Could you forward the below message and fact sheets, via email and fax, to pharmacies please.

As requested by Viv, cleared by Vanessa.

Can the signature block use:

- Dr Vanessa Johnston, Public Health Physician (no phone number)
- Generic HPS signature block, email, generic phone etc.

Cheers,

David

To: Pharmacies

CC: 

Dear pharmacy,

The ACT Health Directorate is facilitating the distribution of Commonwealth stock of P2 / N95 masks to pharmacies, following hazardous air quality levels caused by NSW bushfires.

Your delivery should be arriving this afternoon (Monday 6 January) or tomorrow morning (Tuesday 7 January).

Please see attached information sheets pertaining to the distribution and use of P2 / N95 masks. The masks must only be supplied to people from these sensitive groups:

- Pregnant women;
- People with chronic lung and heart conditions, including:
 - asthma;
 - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema);
 - cystic fibrosis;
 - ischaemic heart disease; and
 - chronic heart failure.
- People aged over 65 years (as they are more likely to have chronic lung and heart conditions).

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

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RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

P2 / N95 masks - distribution of Commonwealth stock by community pharmacies

Eligibility criteria to receive free P2 / N95 masks supplied by ACT Health

Commonwealth stock of P2 / N95 masks supplied to community pharmacies in the ACT **must** only be supplied to people from these sensitive groups:

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How many pharmacies will receive Commonwealth stock?

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ACT Health is working to secure further Commonwealth stock of masks. More information will be forthcoming.

How many masks can we give to each eligible person?

As stock is limited currently, each eligible person can only be given **two** masks.



What information should be provided to patients with the masks?

The masks come in a box of 20 with one information sheet only. It is recommended that pharmacies copy the instruction sheet and provide a copy to patients on supply of the masks.

An information sheet on the use of P2 masks has been developed by ACT Health. Patients should be provided with this information sheet on supply.

Patients should be advised that if the mask becomes damaged, soiled or breathing becomes difficult, leave the contaminated area immediately and replace the respirator.

Can I charge a service fee to provide these masks?

No, the expectation from ACT Health is that these masks will be provided **completely free of charge** to eligible people.

Accessibility

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Outdoor smoke – use of P2 / N95 masks

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For a P2 / N95 mask to be effective it must be worn correctly to achieve an air-tight seal around the face. Men need to be clean-shaven to wear a P2 mask correctly. They do not provide complete protection and are not designed to be used for extended periods of time.

P2 / N95 masks are only available in adult sizes and will not fit most children aged less than 12 years. Making modifications to adult masks to fit them to children is not recommended.

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Advice for fitting a P2 / N95 mask correctly

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2. Put the mask on your face, ensuring the nose piece is at the top of the mask
3. Place the top strap or tie high on the back of your head
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5. Compress the mask against the face to ensure a seal across the bridge of the nose
6. Compress the mask to ensure a seal across the cheeks and the face

7. Gently exhale and check air does not escape around the seal. Adjust if necessary.
8. Gently inhale and check the mask is drawn in towards the face and there are no air leaks around the face seal. Adjust as necessary.
9. If there are air leaks that can't be rectified by adjusting the mask, check the mask for defects or try another style of P2 / N95 mask.

Additional information on correct use of P2 / N95 masks

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- If you feel dizzy, faint or out of breath while wearing a P2 / N95 mask, remove it and go to a place with better air quality and seek medical attention.
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Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:13 PM
To: PICC02; PICC01; Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: RE: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability
Attachments: Masks webpage update (in track) - new.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks – I am comfortable that this is in line with previously cleared content.

Emily – please see attached the updated text as discussed, also below a line specifically for the ACT ESA webpage:

- For further information, including a fact sheet on how to fit a mask properly, please see the ACT Health website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act>

Karen – I don't believe I can play with placement, what I have done is include a line at the top, which people can click on to be redirected down the the masks section quickly. Our web guys are sorting this...

Yes, we are aiming for upload at 3.45pm.

Cheers
Tracey

From: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:02 PM
To: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability

UNCLASSIFIED

As it is information she just cleared - can you check if Kerryn is ok for it to go up while she is in SEMC (in test). We'll both make live at 3:45

From: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:01 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability

UNCLASSIFIED

Yes, we are just in SEMC. I think to make sure it isn't buried to far down. Can you just look at placement to make it prominent?

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 2:57 PM
To: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi all

Please see attached the webpage edits to incorporate further information on the availability of the Commonwealth supply of masks.

Karen – can you get Kerryn to clear at your end in finalising this? I will then work with Jack Walsh to get this up on the ACT Health website at 3.45pm.

Cheers
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 2:02 PM
To: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Subject: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerryn and Karen

Please see attached the talking points and the factsheet on use of mask that has been developed today ahead of the announcement on mask availability. The fact sheet will be provided to pharmacies this afternoon to distribute to people with the masks.

Kerryn – if you can see Karen to finalise the talking points.

I am now going to move on to drafting the webpage text.

Cheers
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au

Heavy smoke and hot conditions in the ACT

The heavy smoke affecting the ACT is expected to continue while fires continue to burn across the border. During this time, the ACT Health Directorate's advice remains the same.

This dense smoke is impacting the air quality across a large area of our region and South East Australia, not just the ACT.

[For advice on P2/N95 masks, including the Commonwealth supply of masks in the ACT, click here](#)

Health advice for smoke

During these periods of smoke, all Canberrans are advised to minimise their levels of prolonged or heavy physical activity outdoors. When there is heavy smoke in the area it is best to avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Common reactions people may experience with heavy smoke include:

- itchy or burning eyes
- throat irritation
- runny nose, and
- coughing.

These common irritations are not serious and can be best managed by avoiding prolonged periods outdoors. People can also consider using water-based eye drops and throat lozenges to help alleviate these irritations.

While exposure to smoke can be unpleasant, for healthy people taking measures to limit their exposure, it is unlikely they will be at risk of serious health harms from the current smoke event.

For people sensitive to smoke and air pollution

People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care during these conditions.

This includes remaining indoors where possible, with windows and doors closed, and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside.

Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan.

Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. And anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000).

People who can be more vulnerable to smoke and air pollution include:

- people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)
- children aged less than 14 years
- pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

[Watch Video](#) - ACT Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Coleman on ways to look after your health in the smoky conditions.

P2 and N95 masks

Our advice to the community is that it is best to avoid exposure to the smoke through staying indoors where possible, and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside.

Ordinary paper masks are not effective at filtering smoke, however do not cause any harm if people choose to wear them and they feel they get some benefit.

Evidence shows P2 and N95 masks do filter some smoke and are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles occur on a regular basis. However they cannot completely eliminate exposure to smoke, and as they can be

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difficult to fit and use appropriately, they are not recommended for use in the general community as an alternative to avoiding outdoor exposure.

If you choose to use a mask outdoors, please refer to our [Use of P2/N95 Masks factsheet](#) for further information. There is further information in our [outdoors smoke factsheet](#), including on how to fit a P2 mask properly.

Commented [PT(1)]: Link to new factsheet

Commonwealth supply of masks in the ACT

There is a small supply of P2/N95 masks that have been provided by the Commonwealth Government for the ACT.

These masks are available through all community pharmacies across Canberra for people who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke. Masks will also be available through the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service for their clients.

The groups of particularly sensitive individuals who will be able to access these masks if they choose, include:

- people with existing chronic lung and heart conditions, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, and heart disease
- all pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

Each eligible person will receive two masks at the pharmacy. Further private stock is available at Canberra retailers, including pharmacies and hardware stores, who regularly stock these masks. At this time, mask stocks are limited due to demand, so please call ahead to check availability.

We ask the community to join with us in ensuring that we are supporting the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of the smoke at this time.

The Government is continuing to monitor demand for masks and is working closely with Canberra retailers.

Staying healthy in the heat

With hot weather conditions expected to continue in the ACT, it is important to be prepared, by having a plan for keeping healthy in the heat.

People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can be more vulnerable to heat-related illness as well, staying hydrated and cool is important.

People who are able to do so, are also encouraged to check on others who they think might need extra help, to see that they are okay.

Where can I find further information?

The ACT Health Directorate is unable to provide individual health advice. If you have any concerns about your health, speak to a health professional.

For further information on minimising the health impacts of outdoor smoke, refer to our [factsheet](#).

If you choose to use a mask outdoors, please refer to our [Use of P2/N95 Masks factsheet](#) for further information on how to fit the mask properly.

Commented [PT(2)]: Link to new factsheet

For further tips on how to beat the heat see our [summer safety](#) page.

The ACT Health Directorate is continuing to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice if needed. For those interested in monitoring the levels of smoke in the air (PM2.5), see our [Health advice for smoky air](#) page.

At this time, the smoky air conditions are expected to continue to impact the ACT while bushfires are burning across the border, with dense smoke impacting a large area of our region. For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au.

State of Alert in the ACT

To prepare the community for the extreme weather conditions forecast for the ACT and region in the coming days, a State of Alert has been declared for the ACT.

The State of Alert will ensure our emergency services and broader ACT Government services are able to be as responsive as possible to the needs of the community.

Further information on what this means, what you need to do, support available and government service changes is on the ACT ESA website at: www.esa.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Doran, Karen
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:15 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Subject: Fwd: Enquiry from ACT TPI Association re allocation of P2 face masks

Just FYI. I will follow up

From: Conway, Sarah <Sarah.Conway@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 3:13:27 PM
To: Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>; Murray, Christine <Christine.Murray@act.gov.au>
Cc: Wells, Jenny <Jenny.Wells@act.gov.au>; Rose, Craig <Craig.Rose@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Enquiry from ACT TPI Association re allocation of P2 face masks
UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Rebecca
Not as yet. I will let Michael know.
Thanks
Sarah

From: Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:12 PM
To: Conway, Sarah <Sarah.Conway@act.gov.au>; Murray, Christine <Christine.Murray@act.gov.au>
Cc: Wells, Jenny <Jenny.Wells@act.gov.au>; Rose, Craig <Craig.Rose@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Enquiry from ACT TPI Association re allocation of P2 face masks
UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

Thanks Sarah – have we let Minister Ramsay’s office know about this?
R

From: Conway, Sarah <Sarah.Conway@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 2:51 PM
To: Murray, Christine <Christine.Murray@act.gov.au>
Cc: Wells, Jenny <Jenny.Wells@act.gov.au>; Cross, Rebecca <Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au>; Rose, Craig <Craig.Rose@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>
Subject: Enquiry from ACT TPI Association re allocation of P2 face masks
UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Christine

The Office for Seniors and Veterans has been contacted by Pat McCabe, President ACT Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Serviceman and Women Inc (ACT TPI Association) regarding the allocation of P2 face masks across the Territory.

Pat advises that there are many TPis who have lung conditions as a result of their service and she is being requested for assistance from individuals in obtaining them.

Please let me know if you require further detail on this.

I have not contacted Pat regarding quantities, as I did not want to raise expectations given the high level of demand across the city.

I will let Pat know this is being considered through the ACT Government coordinated effort for allocation.

Many thanks

Sarah

Sarah Conway

Phone 02 6207 1048

Senior Manager | Office for Seniors and Veterans

Inclusion and Participation | Community Services Directorate

Level 4, 11 Moore Street, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 CANBERRA ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Nixon, Erica (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:15 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: FW: Six things you can do to protect yourself from bushfire smoke

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

FYI – advice from our colleagues at the ANU.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 January 2020 4:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Six things you can do to protect yourself from bushfire smoke
Importance: High

Dear All,

I have summarised the current health protection advice in relation to hazardous bushfire smoke exposure in Canberra in six tweets posted today on Twitter [REDACTED]

Please see below and circulate/re-tweet as appropriate. Keep safe from smoke and bushfires!

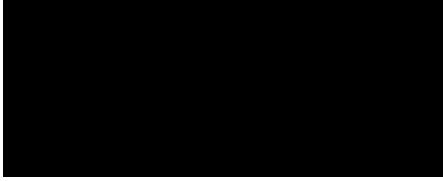
Kind regards,

 Six things you can do to protect yourself from #bushfire #smoke:

- 1. STAY INDOORS:** Create a clean air space in your home, close doors & windows (fill gaps with towels/tape), use air conditioning (not evaporative coolers) on recirculate mode, use air purifier with HEPA filter. 1/6
 - 2. AVOID STRENUOUS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OUTDOORS.** Don't go for your usual jog. Go to gym/indoor swimming pool. Visit air-conditioned libraries, cinema, shopping centres. Time your activities in a way that reduces your exposure to #smoke. Go for a walk when air quality is better. 2/6
 - 3. MEDICATION:** Those with heart/lung conditions are more sensitive to #smoke. Keep sufficient supplies of your regular medication. Follow your asthma/medical plan (keep your inhaler with you). Talk to your doctor if you feel unwell, before making changes to your medical plan. 3/6
 - 4. FACEMASKS:** Use P2/N95 professional #facemask if you have to be outdoors. Fit them tightly around mouth & nose. Replace mask when it becomes dirty/moist. Remove mask if you feel faint/unwell. Surgical masks offer little protection. There are no professional masks for kids. 4/6
 - 5. TRUST YOUR SENSES:** When you smell/see #smoke, air pollution is HAZARDOUS. If you have itchy eyes, cough, running nose reduce activities, stay indoors, take lozenges/eye drops. If you feel difficulty breathing, wheezing, tight chest seek urgent medical attention / call 000. 5/6
 - 6. KEEP WELL & FOLLOW NEWS/ADVICE:** Stay away from the #heat & #smoke, keep well hydrated, eat plenty of fruits & veggies (don't eat junk). Most importantly quit smoking. Antioxidant supplements (vitamin C & E) may help. Follow local news/advice @ACTHealth, @ACT_ESA, @ACTRFS. 6/6
-

[REDACTED]
 Professor of Global Environmental Health
 National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health

Research School of Population Health
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia



Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:43 PM
To: Rawsthorne, Clinton (Health); Online and Design
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: FW: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability
Attachments: Masks webpage update (in track) - new.docx; Information sheet - use of masks - 6 Jan 2020.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

Clinton can you please include this line in the text as well please?

These masks are being delivered to pharmacies this afternoon (6/01/2020) and will be available in all pharmacies by the morning of Tuesday 7 January 2020.

Cheers
Tracey

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 3:17 PM
To: Rawsthorne, Clinton (Health) <Clinton.Rawsthorne@act.gov.au>; Online and Design <onlineanddesign@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Talking points and factsheet - mask availability

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Clinton - firstly, thank you!! 😊

Please see attached the updates to be made to the Health webpage on smoke - <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act>

The attached doc has these changes in track but let me know if you need anything further.

Also attached is the new factsheet for upload.

These changes are to be made and to go live at 3.45pm please.

Cheers
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
 Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
 Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 5:00 PM
To: Rawsthorne, Clinton (Health); Online and Design
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: Text for webpage

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Clinton

As discussed. See below

P2/N95 masks

Our advice to the community is that it is best to avoid exposure to the smoke through staying indoors where possible, and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside.

Ordinary paper masks are not effective at filtering smoke, however do not cause any harm if people choose to wear them and they feel they get some benefit.

Evidence shows P2 and N95 masks do filter some smoke and are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles occur on a regular basis. However they cannot completely eliminate exposure to smoke, and as they can be difficult to fit and use appropriately, they are not recommended for use in the general community as an alternative to avoiding outdoor exposure.

If you choose to use a mask outdoors, please refer to our Use of P2/N95 Masks factsheet for further information on how to fit the mask properly

For further information visit the ACT Health website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act>

Supply for vulnerable Canberrans

On 6 January 2020 it was announced that P2/N95 masks are being delivered to pharmacies and will be available for people who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke from tomorrow 7 January 2019. Masks will also be available through the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service for their clients.

This is the small supply of P2/N95 masks provided by the Commonwealth Government for the ACT.

The groups of particularly sensitive individuals who will be able to access these masks, if they choose, include:

- people with existing chronic lung and heart conditions, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, and heart disease
- all pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

Each eligible person will receive two masks at the pharmacy.

ACT Health recommends that people with lung condition, such as chronic obstructive airways disease, asthma or emphysema, and people with chronic heart conditions, should seek advice from their medical practitioner prior to using these masks.

For further information visit the ACT Health website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act>

In regards to retail sales of masks, some are available at Canberra pharmacies and hardware stores.

We ask the community to join with us in ensuring that we are supporting the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of the smoke at this time.

The Government is continuing to monitor demand for masks and is working closely with Canberra retailers.

Cheers
Trace

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Burkevics, Bren
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 6:46 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Cc: Elkins, Matthew; Doran, Karen; ECC Coordinator; Jones, Jason; ECC-HealthLO1; ECC-HealthLO2; Wright, Robert; Cannon, Craig (Health)
Subject: Additional 300,000 Mask Storage

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerry

The A/g Executive Branch Manager Venues ACT Matthew Elkins has confirmed that EPIC is able to accommodate <50> pallets of P2 masks in an undercover, secure area. This includes assistance with logistics (forklift etc).

I understand that as Summernats bump out the various buildings become available.

Could you please nominate someone to work with Matthew and his team on the specific arrangements. Matthew's mobile number is [REDACTED] or via email above.

Thanks

Bren Burkevics | Executive Branch Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | **Mobile** [REDACTED] **Secure Phone** [REDACTED]**Executive Assistance:** Julie Butt, julie.butt@act.gov.au, (02) 620 50553

Security and Emergency Management Branch (SEMB) | Justice and Community Safety Directorate | ACT Government

Level 9, 12 Moore St Canberra City ACT | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.justice.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Cannon, Craig (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 9:30 AM
To: ACT Health, HPSOps
Cc: Coleman, Kerry (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: FW: P2 Masks from NMS

UNCLASSIFIED

FYI

From: Rosemary Hegner (NSW Ambulance) <Rosemary.Hegner@health.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 8:15 AM
To: Cannon, Craig (Health) <Craig.Cannon@act.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: P2 Masks from NMS

Craig

Yes we received a substantial supply and we are distributing to:
 Hospitals- for EDs to hand out
 Evacuation centres
 Ambulance stations
 Councils with recovery committees

Regards

Rosemary Hegner
 Director
 Health Emergency Management
 Sent from my iPhone

On 6 Jan 2020, at 11:12 am, Cannon, Craig (Health) <Craig.Cannon@act.gov.au> wrote:

UNCLASSIFIED

Morning Rosemary,

I hope you are well after a very busy period.

A quick question. Has NSW Health accepted any P2 masks from the National Medical Stockpile? If so, who will you be distributing the masks to?

Any advice you have would be appreciated.

Thanks Craig

Craig Cannon | Director
 Ph: (02) 5124 9202 | Email: craig.cannon@act.gov.au
 Health Emergency Management Unit, Health Protection Service, Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health
 Directorate
 25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au

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Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of NSW Health or any of its entities.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 12:25 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: FW: New Info request - Mask standards

UNCLASSIFIED

FYI

PICC are following this up at the moment....

Cheers

From: Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 12:23 PM
To: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Cc: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: New Info request - Mask standards

I will follow up- but 'layman' advice is tha P2 or N95 while differently packaged and with different standards referenced (one US one European) are of broadly same standard

K

From: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:48:34 AM
To: Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>
Cc: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: New Info request - Mask standards

Hi Karen

Please see below. Could we get some advice on this?

Trace - FYI

Emily

From: PICC09 <PICC09@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 11:47 AM
To: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>; PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; PICC09 <PICC09@act.gov.au>
Subject: New Info request - Mask standards

Hi there

We have received the information requests through the Access Canberra Contact Centre.

Contact Centre has taken a call regarding P2 masks. He had purchased an approved mask from a chemist yesterday for \$5 which appears to be certified and up to Australian standards. However today he attended the Belconnen Westfield Chemist (nearest to aldi on the ground floor) and was given a mask for free once he verified his age. The mask he was given has no certification on it, is made from less quality material and even has a warning on it that is not suitable for

many particles that may be in the air. Obviously just concerned about giving subpar protective gear for the current conditions.

Do we have any further information on how to identify masks are to standard?

Katherine
Access Canberra Liaison
PICC09

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 1:20 PM
To: PICC02; PICC01
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: RE: Video on how to use a mask properly

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Emily.

We will let you know when this goes out.

Cheers

From: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 1:19 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Video on how to use a mask properly

UNCLASSIFIED

This looks fine to me Trace.

I've cc:ed in Karen Doran also – Karen let us know if you have any concerns.

Can you let us know when it goes up (through PICC01/PICC02) – as ESA may share it.

Thanks

Emily

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 1:06 PM
To: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Subject: Video on how to use a mask properly

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Karen and Emily

With other operational requirements today and the importance on getting these instructions online this afternoon, a decision has been made to embed an already existing YouTube video on our website to give people proper instructions on fitting a mask. This is also consistent with NSW Health's approach on this issue (for reference: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/face-mask.aspx>).

See link to the video we have chosen to use, which is also accessible with closed captions and uses the same brand of mask that is being distributed through the Commonwealth program – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4nRCmlk610>

We are progressing getting this up on our channels as soon as possible.

Webpage text update:

- **Under the P2/N95 masks section**

If you choose to use a mask outdoors, please refer to our [Use of P2/N95 Masks](#) factsheet and watch this instructional video to learn how to fit the mask properly.

Embed video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4nRCmlk610>

Important notes:

- People with chronic lung and heart conditions, should seek advice from a health professional prior to using these masks.
- Masks are not appropriate for use on children, so avoiding exposure is the best way to protect them.

Social media post:

There has been a lot of discussion on the use of P2/N95 masks in the community.

Our advice to the community is that it is best to avoid exposure to the smoke through staying indoors where possible, and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside. But if you choose to use a mask it is really important to fit it properly to ensure it is effective.

This video has some great tips on how to put a face mask on correctly. Further information, including our Use of P2/N95 Masks factsheet is also on our website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act#heavysmoke>

(Link to video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4nRCmlk610>)

Cheers
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 2:53 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Cc: ACT Health, HPSOps
Subject: FW: Smoke information - for spot/social
Attachments: PANO0003-2.jpg

UNCLASSIFIED

For your information – being cleared to go out through ESA. I will share across health channels.

Cheers

From: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 2:49 PM
To: ICCPubInformation <ICCPubInformation@act.gov.au>
Cc: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Subject: Smoke information - for spot/social

Hi Fiona

For issuing please as discussed, and on social.

Trace for info – it is from cleared info.

Fiona – please clear as appropriate through IC and/or EC.

Emily

Heavy smoke is expected to return to the ACT this afternoon

Heavy smoke from the bushfires in NSW is predicted to re-enter the ACT at around 4pm this afternoon.

The smoke is not caused by nearby fire activity. There are currently no grass or bushfires in the ACT.

Our advice to the community remains that it is best to avoid exposure to the smoke by staying indoors where possible and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside.

Tips on how to reduce smoke in the home can be found at: <https://esa.act.gov.au/state-alert-declared-act-0>

P2/N95 masks are available through Canberra's pharmacies for people who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke. Details on this, as well as advice on fitting masks properly, is available on the ACT Health website at: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act#p2n95masks>



Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 3:25 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Cc: Bevan, Vivien (Health)
Subject: RE: For review - PGA/PSA media release with ACTHD feedback tracked.
Attachments: 20-01-07 PSA and Pharmacy Guild Joint Media Release - Pharmacists supporting vulnerable Canberrans - ACTHD feedback in track.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks – sorry, didn't look too closely.

See attached edits.

Regards,
 Vanessa

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 3:21 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Bevan, Vivien (Health) <Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For review - PGA/PSA media release with ACTHD feedback tracked.

UNCLASSIFIED

Trace – can you and Vanessa consider the first line – I don't think we are urging people to get a mask – aBC said the same thing last night...

This sounds like we are urging all sensitive people to go get one...

I'm not sure we have this line right yet

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | **ACT Health Directorate**
 PH 5124 9442 | MOB [REDACTED]
 25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601
 E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 3:18 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Bevan, Vivien (Health) <Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au>
Subject: For review - PGA/PSA media release with ACTHD feedback tracked.

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerryn

Please see attached the PGA and PSA joint media release that has been provided to us for review.

You will see that I have imputed some lines on important health advice at the bottom of the media release to reiterate our key messages (see track changes). With your clearance I will provide this back to PSA for them to

progress. I will also provide to the PICC for their information.

Cheers

Tracey

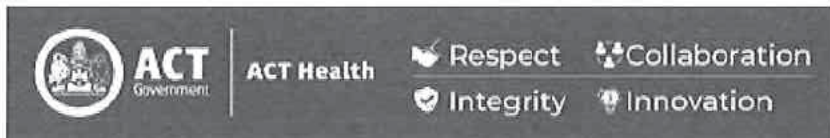
Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 3:06 PM
 To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
 Cc: Bevan, Vivien (Health) <Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]
 Subject: FW: Contact details if needed

Hi Tracey,

In relation to the below, please see a copy of the draft media release.

We are hoping to get it out later this afternoon. Happy for any comments in writing or chat through via phone [REDACTED]

Warm regards,
 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
 Senior Pharmacist - Strategic Policy


P: [REDACTED]

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Level 1, 381 Royal Parade PARKVILLE VIC 3052

RTO Provider No: 122206

www.psa.org.au

 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



From: Bevan, Vivien (Health) [mailto:Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 1:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Contact details if needed

UNCLASSIFIED

Thank you [REDACTED]

I have spoken with our Chief Health Officer and Senior Director of Media; who are both very supportive of your proposal and are keen to work with PSA and PGA on their joint communications.

Tracey's details are below- I have also sent Tracey [REDACTED] details and requested they liaise directly.

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

Regards, Viv

Vivien Bevan | Director Pharmaceutical Services (Chief Pharmacist)

Ph: 02 5124 9260 | Email: vivien.bevan@act.gov.au

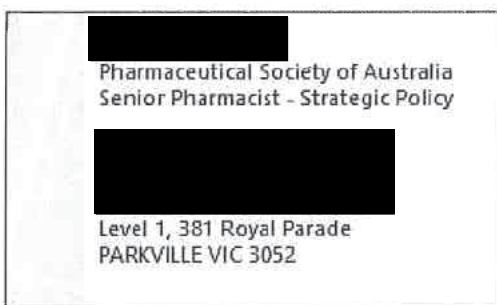
Health Protection Service, Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley St, HOLDER ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 1:02 PM
To: Bevan, Vivien (Health) <Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au>
Subject: Contact details if needed




[REDACTED]
Territory Manager - ACT

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
 Level 1, 17 Denison Street DEAKIN ACT 2600
 PO Box 42 DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

RTO Provider No: 122206

www.psa.org.au

 Pharmaceutical
Society of Australia



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The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Tuesday, 7 January 2020

Community pharmacists supporting smoke-affected Canberrans

Canberrans most vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality due to the bushfire smoke blanketing the ACT are currently now able to access attend being urged to visit their local pharmacist for advice and to access one of the 100,000 Commonwealth Government supplied P2 masks delivered to the city this week.

"Around the country, pharmacists have rallied in support of their communities and are doing what they can to help as bushfires devastate so many parts of Australia," Pharmaceutical Society of Australia ACT Vice President, Professor Mark Naunton said.

"In the ACT this week, pharmacists have stepped up to coordinate and provide access to protective masks for Canberrans most sensitive to smoke, such as those over 65, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions such as asthma."

Yesterday the Commonwealth Government delivered 100,000 P2 masks to the nation's capital and staff from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia joined forces to work with ACT Health to get them to their final destination.

Simon Blacker, ACT President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia reflected; "What I saw when I was delivering masks for vulnerable people to ACT community pharmacies was a mixture of joy and relief that free masks were finally arriving that would allow the pharmacy to be able to help their local communities and their local patients. All the teams were excited to be empowered to help, and this is a common trait of all community pharmacies and those that work within them."

"As we travelled around the city and visited each of Canberra's 84 pharmacies was a network of community pharmacists eager to help out and play a part in keeping Canberrans safe from the harmful effects of pollution," Prof. Naunton said. "This is another example of the important role pharmacists play in responding to public health issues and natural disasters."

"By the time the task was completed yesterday afternoon, we believe about one-third of masks had already been provided free of charge to members of our community, showing how urgent the need in Canberra was," Prof. Naunton said.

Mr Blacker urged Canberrans to contact their local pharmacy for any queries regarding availability; "Access to this supply of masks is being prioritised for Canberrans whose health is at risk due to smoke. Anyone who falls in this category is encouraged to visit their local pharmacy. If your local pharmacy has run out, another nearby is likely to have some available."

Commented [PG1]: Need approval from Simon Blacker for quote

IMPORTANT HEALTH ADVICE:

- The community are also reminded that up to date health advice and further information on how to use a P2/N95 mask properly is on the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au).
- The community are also reminded that use of masks is also not an alternative to avoiding exposure to the smoke outdoors.

- The best way to protect yourself and your family is to stay indoors (with windows and doors closed) when heavy smoke is around.

Media contact: PSA Media, 0487 922 176
Pharmacy Guild of Australia (ACT Branch) 

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 3:54 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: FW: Final approved TPs and FAQ mask announcement
Attachments: APPROVED BY CHO - Talking points mask availability announcement 06012019.docx

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Vanessa

Please see attached the CHO approved TPs from yesterday for updating. Can you please make updates in track?

Can you also include the below line that has been provided by Housing for inclusion:

- Housing ACT is distributing P2 masks to its tenants and clients in the homelessness service sector who are most in need.

In addition, see below the lines we drafted last night which might come handy in updating....

- We will be working with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to monitor numbers of masks available across the ACT.
- As of this morning, with almost 1,000 masks available at each of the 81 pharmacies across Canberra and a stock a Winnuga, there are approximately 80,000 masks that are available in the community.
- As part of the monitoring we will be doing Working with the Guild and PSA, we will be looking at demand and redistributing masks amongst pharmacies as needed to ensure we are getting maximum benefit from supplies.

Cheers
Tracey

From: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 2:39 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Cc: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>
Subject: Final approved TPs and FAQ mask announcement
Importance: High

Good afternoon Tracey

Please see attached the final TPs on the mask announcement, approved by the CHO.

Only changes were listing the number of community pharmacies (82) and being less specific on the number of masks (less than 1000).

Also took out the line on health sector partners.

There were no changes to the factsheet.

Trace can you give us an ETA on web content.

Thanks
Emily

Talking points – mask availability announcement

As at 3.45pm, Monday 6 January 2020

Overarching points:

- Following yesterday's announcement on the supply of 100,000 P2/N95 masks from the Commonwealth Government, we have been working to arrange locations across Canberra where the masks will be available to the community.
- I can advise, the ACT Health Directorate is partnering with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to make these masks available through all community pharmacies across Canberra.
- The masks will be available in pharmacies as of tomorrow morning. Masks will also be available through the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service.
- It is important to be clear that this supply of masks, will be available to the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke.
- These groups of particularly sensitive individuals, include:
 - people with existing chronic lung and heart conditions, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, and heart disease
 - all pregnant women, and
 - people over 65 years of age.
- For those in our community that are vulnerable to prolonged outdoor exposure, such as rough sleepers and the homeless, we will continue to make masks available through the Early Morning Centres.
- We know there is still a lot of concern about the availability and use of P2/N95 masks. And we know that for some in our community, it's not possible to avoid the smoke and they would feel more comfortable with access to a mask.
- But we are asking the community to join with us in ensuring that we are supporting the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of the smoke at this time.
- Our firm advice continues to be to stay indoors and out of the smoke as much as possible, closing windows and doors and not using evaporative cooling. We understand this can be frustrating, but it is the best way to minimise your exposure.
- For healthy people who don't have any existing chronic conditions, this means avoiding all prolonged or heavy physical activity outdoors and staying indoors when the smoke is heavy.
- There are also a number of tips for dealing with the smoky conditions available on the ACT Health website, which I would encourage everyone to be aware of.
- The Government will continue to monitor demand for masks in the coming days, and will work closely with Canberra retailers to understand the supply constraints and when new stock will be available.

If asked:

How many masks are being provided to each pharmacy?

- ACT Health Directorate staff are this afternoon distributing masks to pharmacies to have them ready for tomorrow.
- Each of the 82 community pharmacies are being provided with less than 1000 masks each, ready for tomorrow.
- We will continue working with pharmacies in the coming days to distribute all the Commonwealth supply.

How many masks will each person get?

- Each eligible person will receive two masks. Further private stock may also be available at pharmacies who regularly stock these masks.

Will people be able to get more masks once their two masks run out?

- ACT Health is also working to secure more Commonwealth stock and we will update the community on this as more information comes to hand.

What about masks for Children and infants?

- P2/N95 masks sold in Australia are usually only available in adult sizes and will not fit most children aged less than 12 years. Therefore, avoiding exposure for children, is the best way to protect them.

COMMONWEALTH SUPPLY

How many masks are available?

- At this time, 100,000 P2/N95 masks have been provided to the ACT from the Commonwealth.
- The Government will continue to monitor demand for masks in the coming days and will work closely with Canberra retailers to understand the supply constraints and when new stock will be available.

Are you going to request more masks from the Commonwealth?

- The Government will continue to monitor demand for masks, and what is available in the private market, and will consider this further in the coming days.

RETAIL

What is the latest update of stock available in retailers?

- As we understand it, new stocks of masks are coming into the Canberra retail market, available through pharmacies and local hardware stores, but is selling out very quickly.
- The best thing to do is to call ahead to providers to check stock.

- The Government is making contact with retailers on a regular basis and is also looking at where we may be able to make further information available to the community. However, as we understand, new stocks are selling out quickly.

Specific health advice:

- We know there is a lot of concern about the smoky conditions – these conditions are unprecedented, and we thank the community for their calm at this time.
- Our advice continues to be to stay indoors and out of the smoke as much as possible, closing windows and doors and not using evaporative cooling. This is the best way to minimise your exposure.
- Further health advice is on the ACT Health website on the best ways to protect yourself and your family in the conditions.
- If you are concerned about your health, please speak with a health professional.

MASKS

- Evidence shows that P2/N95 masks do filter some smoke, and they are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles like dust occurs regularly.
- However, it is important to remember that using a mask is not an alternative for avoiding exposure to smoke outdoors.
- Masks are most useful for short periods of time when exposure to outdoor smoke cannot be avoided.
- Masks should only be used indoors in exceptional circumstances.
- Masks can also be difficult to fit and use appropriately so it is important to know what to do to ensure you are using them correctly. Further information is on the ACT Health website.

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH INDOOR SMOKE

Here's some tips to help keep your home as smoke free as possible:

- Keep all windows and doors closed.
- Stay in air-conditioned premises and switch the air-conditioner to 'recycle' or 'recirculate' to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building.
- Only use an evaporative cooler if the system is filtered. **Note:** some domestic evaporative coolers are less likely to filter fine particles such as smoke and may introduce smoke inside. If you have any questions about your evaporative cooler, please speak to the manufacturer or place of purchase as models may vary.
- Determine where the gaps are where smoke may be able to enter. Look for obvious signs of draughts – light coming under and around doors and windows and feeling for draughts.
- Keep your pets indoors with clean water and food. Keep pets bedding inside if possible.
- Seal internal cracks and gaps and consider sealing up vent covers.
- Air out your house when the smoke clears.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 4:07 PM
To: Murray, Christine
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Air quality masks for community services
Attachments: Poor air quality mask requests.docx

Importance: High

Hi Christine

Thanks for the brief note – much appreciated.

Before I do any more comms I wanted to re-confirm that the ACT Government is going ahead with the mask distribution to community organisations for their front line workers and that this is now progressing and likely timing. We are now getting inquiries from 18 organisations for over 2,600 masks and some of them are keen for updates. Please see attached latest list – additions in red

Thanks

ACTCOSS [REDACTED]

w actcross.org.au

From: Murray, Christine <Christine.Murray@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 7:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Air quality masks for community services

Thanks very much [REDACTED]

I will prepare a more formal response. I just wanted to thank you immediately for your support.

Thanks
 Chris

Christine Murray
 a/g Executive Group Manager
 Inclusion and Participation
 Community Services Directorate

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 6:45:06 PM
To: Murray, Christine <Christine.Murray@act.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Air quality masks for community services

Hi Christine

Thanks for speaking to me this afternoon. As I mentioned on the phone following the announcement that P2/N95 air filter masks were being made available in Canberra and the ACT Government was planning to discuss requirements with peak bodies we put the word out to our member organisations about requirements for masks as and when they become available. We asked people to provide an indication of the number of masks needed, the delivery address and preferred delivery hours. We had requests for 800 masks today and we would also like some for this organisation to retain.

ACTCOSS is unable to undertake wide distribution or fulfillment ourselves although we are happy to take delivery for the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre [REDACTED]. A number of services have told us that there is a high level of need for timely mask delivery due to the frontline nature of their workforces and the poor air quality. This list is correct as at COB today but the notice only went out today and its possible we may receive more requests in coming days.

My colleague [REDACTED] copied into this email, may be in touch with further requests as I'm proposing to resume my interrupted leave later this week.

In terms of organisations supporting older people, people with disabilities and people with health conditions I'm not able to directly provide contacts but I will link you with some organisations working with people via a separate email.

We note and understand that the ACT Government intends to supply health and correct usage information to recipients of the masks to ensure against improper use and minimise the risk of adverse outcomes.

We would appreciate being kept in the comms loop re the distribution of masks & usage information to the Canberra community.

Please find the list attached

--

[REDACTED] Policy Manager

ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS)

[REDACTED]
a 1/6 Gritten St, Weston ACT 2611



ACTCOSS represents not-for-profit community organisations and advocates for social justice in the ACT.
actcoss.org.au | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | **Raise the Rate! [Join the campaign to get Newstart working!](#)**

ACTCOSS is committed to reconciliation, acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to elders past and present.

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Number	Organisation/address	Time
500	Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services [REDACTED]	Office hours
100	Toora Women [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. [REDACTED]
200	Canberra Rape Crisis Centre c/o ACTCOSS [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday.
200	ACTCOSS [REDACTED] attention Policy Manager [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday.
200	Woden Community Service [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday.
200	Communities@Work [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. attn. [REDACTED]
60	Relationships Australia [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday.
52	Uniting Children and Families ACT [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday.
150	Community Connections [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. Attn [REDACTED]
200	Companion House [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. Attn [REDACTED]
200	Directions [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. Attn [REDACTED]
150	Barnados [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. Attn [REDACTED]
0	ATODA TBC	
50	Havelock House [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. Attn [REDACTED]
20	Canberra Youth Residential Service [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. [REDACTED]
200	St Vincent de Paul [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. [REDACTED]
100	YWCA [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. [REDACTED]

20	A Gender Agenda [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. [REDACTED]
20	Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy [REDACTED]	9-5pm Monday to Friday. [REDACTED]
2622	TOTAL	

Requests for smoke masks and accompanying health and safety information

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 4:10 PM
To: PICC02; PICC01
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Subject: RE: Social media post for approval

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Karen and Em

Any news on this?

Cheers

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 2:37 PM
To: PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>; PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>
Cc: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Subject: Social media post for approval

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Em and Karen

See below a social media post we are looking to get out on ACT Health's channel this afternoon prior to smoke haze coming over (which then can be shared by ACT ESA) on how to fit masks.

Social media post on mask video

There has been a lot of discussion on the use of P2/N95 masks in the community.

Our advice to the community is that it is best to avoid exposure to the smoke through staying indoors where possible, and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside. But if you choose to use a mask it is really important to fit it properly to ensure it is effective.

This video has some great tips on how to put a face mask on correctly. Further information, including our Use of P2/N95 Masks factsheet is also on our website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act#heavysmoke>

(Link to video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4nRCmlk610>)

Can you let us know if this is good to go. Video has been uploaded to the ACT Health website.

Cheers
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
 Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
 Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 4:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Media; Bevan, Vivien (Health); Coleman, Kerry (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: RE: 20-01-07 PSA and Pharmacy Guild Joint Media Release - Pharmacists supporting vulnerable Canberrans.docx
Attachments: 20-01-07 PSA and Pharmacy Guild Joint Media Release - Pharmacists supporting vulnerable Canberrans - ACTHD feedback in track.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks [REDACTED]

Please see attached with ACT Health additions. Many thanks for the opportunity to input.

Kind regards
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 3:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] Bevan, Vivien (Health) <Vivien.Bevan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: 20-01-07 PSA and Pharmacy Guild Joint Media Release - Pharmacists supporting vulnerable Canberrans.docx

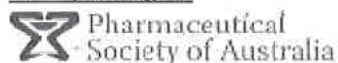
Hi all,

Thanks to [REDACTED] for comments – these have been incorporated in the attached.

Just awaiting any comments from Tracey in the ACT Health team prior to distribution.

Cheers
[REDACTED][REDACTED]
Senior Pharmacist - Strategic Policy

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
 Level 1, 381 Royal Parade PARKVILLE VIC 3052
 RTO Provider No: 122206
www.psa.org.au



From [REDACTED]
 Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 2:36 PM
 To [REDACTED]

'vivien.bevan@act.gov.au' <vivien.bevan@act.gov.au>

Cc [REDACTED]

Subject: 20-01-07 PSA and Pharmacy Guild Joint Media Release - Pharmacists supporting vulnerable
 Canberrans.docx

Hi all,

Please see attached draft media release regarding yesterday's distribution of face masks to Canberra's community pharmacies:

- [REDACTED] Can you confirm approval of the media release, including [REDACTED] approval for the additional quote. The additional quote is along the lines of what we discussed earlier. I've interpreted your email as having [REDACTED] mobile as the media contact. Can you confirm this is correct?
- [REDACTED] Can you confirm you're happy with the content, and circulate internally if you need any other eyes on it?
- [REDACTED] Can you please confirm happy with the quotes?
- Vivien: Any comments welcome, particularly with regards to accuracy.
- [REDACTED] For information. Any comments welcome.

Once approved, I'm happy to send from our distribution platform to ACT media and pharmacy trade press.

Warm regards,

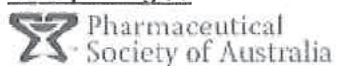
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Pharmacist - Strategic Policy

[REDACTED]

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Level 1, 381 Royal Parade PARKVILLE VIC 3052
RTO Provider No: 122206
www.psa.org.au



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Tuesday, 7 January 2020

Community pharmacists supporting smoke-affected Canberrans

Canberrans most vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality due to the bushfire smoke blanketing the ACT are ~~currently able to being urged to visit~~ attend their local pharmacist for advice and to access one of the 100,000 Commonwealth Government supplied P2 masks delivered to every community pharmacy across the Territory this week.

“Around the country, pharmacists have rallied in support of their communities and are doing what they can to help as bushfires devastate so many parts of Australia,” Pharmaceutical Society of Australia ACT Vice President, Professor Mark Naunton said.

“In the ACT this week, pharmacists have stepped up to coordinate and provide access to protective masks for Canberrans most sensitive to smoke, such as those over 65, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions such as asthma and cardiovascular disease.”

Yesterday the Commonwealth Government delivered 100,000 P2 masks to the nation’s capital and staff from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia joined forces to work with ACT Health to get them to community pharmacies as their final destination.

Simon Blacker, ACT President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia reflected; “What I saw when I was delivering masks for vulnerable people to ACT community pharmacies was a mixture of joy and relief that masks were finally arriving that would allow the pharmacy to be able to help their local communities and their local patients. The teams of pharmacists and staff were excited to be empowered to help, and this is a common trait of all community pharmacies and those that work within them.”

“As we travelled around the city and visited each of Canberra’s 80 pharmacies was a network of community pharmacists eager to help out and play a part in keeping Canberrans safe from the harmful effects of pollution,” Prof. Naunton said. “This is another example of the important role pharmacists play in responding to public health issues and natural disasters.”

“By the time the task was completed yesterday afternoon, we believe about one-third of masks had already been provided free of charge to members of our community, showing how urgent the need in Canberra was,” Mr Blacker said.

Mr Blacker urged Canberrans to contact their local pharmacy for any queries regarding availability; “Access to this supply of masks is being prioritised for Canberrans whose health is at risk due to smoke. Anyone who falls in this category is encouraged to visit their local pharmacy. If your local pharmacy has run out, another nearby is likely to have some available.”

IMPORTANT HEALTH ADVICE:

- The community are reminded that up to date health advice and further information on how to use a P2/N95 mask properly is on the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au).
- The community are also reminded that use of masks is also not an alternative to avoiding exposure to the smoke outdoors.

- The best way to protect yourself and your family is to stay indoors (with windows and doors closed) when heavy smoke is around.

Media contact: PSA Media, 0487 922 176
Pharmacy Guild of Australia (ACT Branch), [REDACTED]

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 5:40 PM
To: Cross, Rebecca, [REDACTED]
Cc: Murray, Christine
Subject: RE: Reducing the Impact of Smoke in Canberra and Appropriate Use of P2/N95 Masks
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca

While we understand the need to prioritise masks to those in direct medical need & the fitting issues ACTCOSS are very concerned and disappointed at the process here. We have been acting on strong indications from Ministers, including public statements from the Chief Minister on 5 January, that the ACT Government was working with peak bodies and various organisations to establish the best way to provide these masks. As a peak body we also received indications yesterday that CSD were forming a list for distribution and that we should feed into it. If we had received these indications ACTCOSS would not have decided to offer this form of help to the ACT Government by issuing communications to our members attempting to get a timely idea of demand.

I note that our requests involve both needs for critical frontline workers and vulnerable clients. We now have requests for 2676 masks from 20 community organisations who had a reasonable expectation of support and have no doubt delayed their own attempts to source masks for their workers and clients.

We would urge you to reconsider so that we can at least support the requests for masks from the organisations who have already requested help – even with smaller batch numbers. Please feel free to contact me on the numbers below re this issue.

Regards

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[REDACTED] ACTCOSS [REDACTED]

w actcoss.org.au

From: Griffin, Courtney <Courtney.Griffin@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Cross, Rebecca
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 4:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Murray, Christine <Christine.Murray@act.gov.au>
Subject: Reducing the Impact of Smoke in Canberra and Appropriate Use of P2/N95 Masks

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Community Partners

I would like to firstly thank you all for your tireless work to support Canberrans and the broader community at this difficult time.

There has been a lot of information about how best to reduce the impact of the smoke in Canberra and the appropriate use of P2/N95 masks. The ACT Government would like to ensure that the limited supply of masks available is provided to those Canberrans who are most in need, with their medical needs and vulnerability in mind.

It is for this reason that the decision has been taken to make the bulk of the supply of masks available at all pharmacies across Canberra.

We have appreciated the advice that we have received from community organisations and have taken this on board in this decision. What the ACT Government would request from you, as trusted community partners, is to assist vulnerable Canberrans to receive the most up to date advice on the broad range of strategies to reduce the impact of the smoke, and to help them access their local pharmacy if there are impediments to doing so.

Below is the most up to date information from Health ACT on Outdoor Smoke and P2/N95 masks. Thank you to those who have already offered to share this information through your networks and publications.

Housing ACT is working directly with community service partners to tailor support for people experiencing extended exposure to the Canberra weather

For further information visit the ACT Health website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act#heavysmoke>

Information on the ACT's State of Alert will be provided via the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) website (www.esa.act.gov.au), NSW Fires Near Me app, ESA social media channels and local media outlets.

Again I would like to thank you all.

Kind regards

Rebecca Cross
Director General
Community Services Directorate

On 6 January 2020 it was announced that P2/N95 masks are being delivered to pharmacies and will be available from 7 January 2019 for people who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke. Masks will also be available through the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service for their clients.

This is the small supply of P2/N95 masks provided by the Commonwealth Government for the ACT.

The groups of particularly sensitive individuals who will be able to access these masks, if they choose, include:

- people with existing chronic lung and heart conditions, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, and heart disease;
- all pregnant women; and
- people over 65 years of age.

Each eligible person will receive two masks at the pharmacy.

ACT Health recommends that people with lung conditions, such as chronic obstructive airways disease, asthma or emphysema, and people with chronic heart conditions, should seek advice from their medical practitioner prior to using these masks.

For further information visit the ACT Health website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act>

In regards to retail sales of masks, some are available at Canberra pharmacies and hardware stores.

We ask the community to join with us in ensuring that we are supporting the people in our community who are most at risk of the health impacts of the smoke at this time.

The Government is continuing to monitor demand for masks and is working closely with Canberra retailers.

Advice on P2/N95 masks

Our advice to the community is that it is best to avoid exposure to the smoke through staying indoors where possible, and not using evaporative air conditioners which draw air into the house from outside.

Ordinary paper masks are not effective at filtering smoke, however do not cause any harm if people choose to wear them and they feel they get some benefit.

Evidence shows P2 and N95 masks do filter some smoke and are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles occurs on a regular basis. However, they cannot completely eliminate exposure to smoke, and as they can be difficult to fit and use appropriately, they are not recommended for use in the general community as an alternative to avoiding outdoor exposure.

If you choose to use a mask outdoors, please refer to our [Use of P2/N95 Masks factsheet](#) for further information on how to fit the mask properly.

For further information visit the ACT Health website at: <https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-hot-conditions-act>

Tips for dealing with indoor smoke

Here's some tips to help keep your home as smoke-free as possible:

- Keep all windows and doors closed.
- Stay in air-conditioned premises and switch the air conditioner to 'recycle' or 'recirculate' to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building.
- Only use an evaporative cooler if the system is filtered. Note: some domestic evaporative coolers are less likely to filter fine particles such as smoke and may introduce smoke inside. If you any questions about your evaporative cooler, please speak to the manufacturer or place of purchase as models may vary.
- Determine where the gaps are where smoke may be able to enter. Look for obvious signs of draughts-lights coming in under and around doors and windows and feel for draughts.
- Seal internal cracks and gaps and consider sealing up vent covers.
- Keep your pets indoors with clean water and food. Keep pets bedding inside if possible.

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Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 7:32 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Cc: Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health); De'Ath, Michael (Health)
Subject: FW: 20-01-07 Hunt - Media Release - Number of P2 masks for bushfires increases to more than 1.8 million [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 20-01-07 Hunt - Media Release - Number of P2 masks for bushfires increases to more than 1.8 million.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerryn, Michael and the two Vanessa's

Please see below the mask update going to EC for approval. Looks like the PICC just shortened our version of the statement.

Cheers
 Tracey

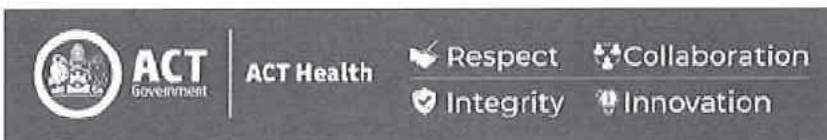
Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

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From: PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 7:21 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: 20-01-07 Hunt - Media Release - Number of P2 masks for bushfires increases to more than 1.8 million [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi Trace - text that I will provide to EC for approval

P2/N95 mask update

The Commonwealth Government has this afternoon provided an update on the masks being made available across Australia.