

COVID-19 BGIS SUPPLIER REQUIREMENTS UPDATE – APRIL 16, 2020 - REVISED

Infection Containment Protocols – Facial coverings

Please ensure this message is shared across your organization's key stakeholders.

Dear Valued Suppliers,

Recent studies have shown that a portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”). This means that the virus may spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing — even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

On April 7, 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) [released a statement](#) regarding the use of non-medical/ cloth masks. The PHAC states that wearing a non-medical/cloth mask is not proven to protect the person wearing it, but is an additional measure to protect others if you are in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain. We note that the surgical grade and N95 types masks are critical supplies which should be made available for Healthcare professionals.

Notwithstanding this recommendation, physical distance (6 feet or 2 metres or more from others) remains one of the most effective ways to prevent the transfer of the virus between individuals.

Considering this finding, **when physical distancing cannot be accomplished while undertaking work** it is our expectation that **BGIS Supplier's employees will respect this recommendation and wear some form of a facial covering**. Ideally team members should use reusable, washable coverings minimizing the impact of waste on our environment. Coverings should be neutral and tasteful and maintain a professional appearance at all times. Given that facial coverings have been proven to prevent the transfer of droplets into the air or onto surfaces from yourself to others, we are asking Suppliers to be proactive and take appropriate personal measures in regard to facial coverings. It is BGIS' commitment to provide the highest degree of safety for all of the occupants of the buildings in which we serve, and this measure will contribute to that objective.

As outlined by public health authorities, a facial covering is intended to protect others from contracting the COVID-19 virus, not the wearer, so it should not be confused with PPE.

If you or your employees are not feeling well especially if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, sustained cough, difficulty in breathing), wearing of a mask or facial covering does not cancel out the requirement to stay home and advising your medical practitioner.

There may be certain sites that are excluded from this requirement and we encourage you to coordinate with your BGIS account operations leadership to ensure alignment with Client protocols at those sites.

Please feel free to contact me or your local BGIS representative if you have any questions.

Thank you for your dedication, cooperation and support.



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