

# Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program **FAQ**

Original date: November 2020

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## What is the Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program? What is a PPE Safety Coach?

- The Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program provides resources and training for areas that do not currently have a PPE support program. It also complements existing programs developed at the local level.
- The role of a PPE Safety Coach is to observe, educate and advise their colleagues on PPE selection using friendly, informal, supportive feedback and guidance.

## Why did AHS launch the program?

- In response to the pandemic, AHS launched the Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program in November 2020. As COVID-19 continues, the need for continued and correct use of personal protection equipment remains crucial at the frontlines of care and throughout all of our sites and those of contracted service providers.
- The program aims to support staff and physicians by promoting the appropriate selection and use of PPE through peer-to-peer support, which may address knowledge gaps and “PPE fatigue” being felt by healthcare providers.

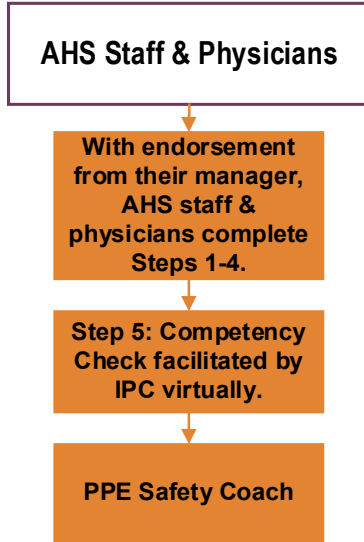
## What are the goals of the program?

- To create a system of peer safety coaching to provide just-in-time support and mentorship to frontline staff and physicians when selecting and using PPE for effective infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.
- The long term goal is to create a culture where staff become comfortable selecting and using PPE to prevent transmission of infectious diseases within healthcare.

## If we have a similar PPE support program at our site, do we need to complete the provincial program? Is this program mandatory?

- AHS launched the Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program to complement already established programs, as well as provide resources to areas that do not currently have PPE support.
- It is a voluntary program, however, backfill funding for training hours is available to contracted long-term care and supportive living facilities through AHS Provincial Senior's Health and Continuing Care. Refer to [Info Sheet – Continuing Care Grant Funding | PPE Safety Coach Program](#). This funding is currently available until August 2022.

### How does a site or unit participate in the program?



- The program is available to **all AHS staff and physicians** with endorsement from their manager.
- Site leadership and unit management are encouraged to identify a **minimum of two coaches per unit** or program area, either staff or physicians, with the intent of having a **coach available and accessible on each shift**.
- Site managers and leadership direct potential coaches to online training at [ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach](https://ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach).
- Training is anticipated to take two (2) hours in total.
- Potential coaches must complete all five steps of the training, which includes: (1-2) two self-directed learning modules, (3) donning and doffing demonstration, (4) online self-assessment, and (5) an instructor-led virtual competency check with a PPE Safety Coach Program staff (IPC Zone Coordinator).



- For continuing care and AHS contracted service providers, the program is delivered through a “Designate” model.
  - The designate is responsible for training and supporting additional PPE safety coaches at their site. Refer to [Provincial PPE Safety Coach Designate Responsibilities | Alberta Health Services](#).
  - Training is estimated to take three to four hours total.
- 1) Once a designate has been identified, email [ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca](mailto:ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca).
  - 2) The designate must complete Steps 1-4 of the training at [ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach](https://ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach), which includes: (1-2) two self-directed learning modules; (3) donning and doffing demonstration; and (4) online self-assessment.
  - 3) After completion of Step 4: Online Self-Assessment, PPE Safety Coach Program staff will reach out to the individual to facilitate a virtual PPE competency check. This is completed via virtual environment and takes approximately 1 hour. This will also include an orientation on how to use program resources to train PPE safety coaches at their site.

### Who do you recommend we select as PPE Coaches?

- Refer to [PPE Safety Coach Responsibilities | Alberta Health Services](#).
- Site leadership and unit managers are encouraged to identify a minimum of two coaches per area, either staff or physicians, with the intent of having a coach available and accessible on each shift.
- Coaches can be either frontline staff or physicians, but should work directly with other staff on the units.
- Potential staff and physician coaches can be identified based on experience and strong communication skills.

### Who do you recommend we select as PPE Designates?

- Refer to [Provincial PPE Safety Coach Designate Responsibilities | Alberta Health Services](#)
- Designates can be anyone in a role that works directly with staff as a formal or informal leader, as well as has the time and capacity to train other PPE safety coaches at their site.

- Potential designates can be identified based on availability, experience and strong communication skills.

### Can PPE Safety Coach Designates train other designates?

- **No.** The Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program is able to support training of all designates at any continuing care sites, or contracted service providers that are interested, as well as provide ongoing direction and guidance. Interested sites can contact [ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca](mailto:ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca).

### How many staff or physicians should take part in the program?

- A minimum of two coaches per area is recommended, with the intent of having a coach available and accessible on each shift.

### I have identified my coaches and designate(s), what do I do now?

- Direct potential coaches to complete online training at [ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach](https://ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach).
- Direct identified designate(s) to complete the online training at [ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach](https://ahs.ca/ppesafetycoach) and email [ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca](mailto:ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca).

### Who's responsible for paying for the time of training involved with the program?

- Each zone is responsible to cover any costs associated with the training hours.
- Backfill funding for training hours is **temporarily** available to contracted long-term care and designated supportive living facilities through AHS Provincial Senior's Health and Continuing Care.

Refer to [Info Sheet – Continuing Care Grant Funding | PPE Safety Coach Program](#)



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