

COVID-19: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as required by national guidance

(28 March 2020)

This COVID-19 PPE guide has been produced following current national government guidance based on scientific evidence, which sets out when PPE should be worn for which activities.

You are asked to ensure all staff, healthcare workers (HCW) and visitors co-operate by following this guide to help:

- **minimise inappropriate use of PPE**
- **ensure enough supplies of PPE** are available for those staff providing close personal care to clients/patients who are unwell, or staff who are cleaning contaminated areas

Remember the best way to protect everyone is to:

- self-isolate immediately and [Stay at home](#) if you develop a new continuous cough or high fever
- maintain [social distancing](#) social distancing (>2 metres) where possible
- wash your hands more often, with soap and water for 20 seconds
- catch sneezes and coughs in a tissue (or your sleeve, bin the tissue, and wash your hands)

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Table 1 - Non-Healthcare settings

(Includes services provided by local government, educational settings, voluntary sector, private business sector that are not covered by tables 2,3,or 4)

| Scenario | PPE | | | | Additional items | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| | Disposable plastic apron (single use) | Disposable gloves (single use) | Fluid repellent surgical mask (single use) | Eye protection (single use if available)** | Disposable bags (for waste) * | Hand Hygiene (hand washing or hand sanitiser) |
| Well staff visiting well clients with no symptoms of COVID-19 (maintain >2m social distancing) | x | x | x | x | x | √ |
| Well staff helping clients who have symptoms of COVID-19 but NO close personal contact (maintain >2m social distancing) | x | x | x | x | x | √ |
| Well staff cleaning areas where clients with symptoms of COVID-19 are/have been | √ | √ | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | √ | √ |

* Waste must be disposed in plastic bag and tied, placed into second bag and tied, stored in a secure place for 72 hours, then put in normal waste collection service

** If single use eye protection is not available, it must be washed and dried between clients

National guidance:

- [COVID-19 List of national guidance](#)

Table 2 - Residential care, supported care and home care (children and adults)
(Specific national guidance covers residential/nursing homes, supported living, home care providers)

| Scenario | PPE | | | | Additional items | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| | Disposable plastic apron (single use) | Disposable gloves (single use) | Fluid repellent surgical mask (single use) | Eye protection (single use if available) ** | Disposal bags (for waste)* | Hand Hygiene (hand washing or hand sanitiser) |
| Well staff visiting well clients with no symptoms of COVID-19 (maintain >2m social distancing) | x | x | x | x | x | √ |
| Well staff helping clients who have symptoms of COVID-19 but NO close personal contact (maintain >2m social distancing) | x | x | x | x | x | √ |
| Well staff providing close personal contact*** to clients who have symptoms of COVID-19 | √ | √ | √ | √ (where risk of splashing) | x | √ |
| Well staff cleaning areas where clients with symptoms of COVID-19 are/have been | √ | √ | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | √ | √ |

* Waste must be disposed in plastic bag and tied, placed into second bag and tied, stored in a secure place for 72 hours, then put in normal waste collection service

** If single use eye protection is not available, it must be washed and dried between clients

*** Close personal contact such as washing and bathing, personal hygiene, contact with bodily fluids

National guidance:

- [COVID-19: Residential Care, Supported Living and Home Care guidance](#)
- [COVID-19: Cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance](#)

Table 3 - Community based healthcare settings

(Specific national guidance covers GP practices. Other settings include dental practices****, hospices, community pharmacies, community mental health settings, prisons and prescribed places of detention)

| Scenario | PPE | | | | Additional items | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| | Disposable plastic apron (single use) | Disposable gloves (single use) | Fluid repellent surgical mask (single use) | Eye protection (single use if available)** | Disposal bags (for waste)* | Hand Hygiene (hand washing or hand sanitiser) |
| Well healthcare worker (HCW)/custodial staff with well patient with no symptoms of COVID-19 (maintain >2m social distancing where possible) | x | x | x | x | x | √ |
| Well health care worker (HCW)/custodial staff more than 1 metre from a patient with possible/confirmed COVID-19 (patients with symptoms of COVID-19) | x | x | x | x | x | √ |
| Well healthcare worker (HCW)/custodial staff within 1 metre of a patient with possible/ confirmed COVID-19 (patients with symptoms of COVID-19) | √ | √ | √ | √ (where risk of splashing) | √ | √ |
| Well healthcare worker (HCW) undertaking nose or throat swabs from a patient with possible COVID-19 (patients with symptoms of COVID-19) | √ | √ | √ | √ (if at risk of coughing) | √ | √ |
| Well staff cleaning areas where patients with symptoms of COVID-19 are/have been | √ | √ | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | √ | √ |

* Waste must be disposed of following clinical waste guidelines

** If single use eye protection is not available, it must be washed and dried between clients

**** If dental practitioners are to undertake aerosol generating procedures (such as drilling) they should see table 4

National guidance:

- [COVID-19: Guidance for primary care](#)

Table 4 - Acute based healthcare settings**(Specific national guidance covers acute hospital settings and any setting where aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are carried out)**

| Scenario | PPE | | | | | | Additional items | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| | Disposable plastic apron (single use) | Disposable gloves (single use) | Disposable Gown | Fluid resistant surgical mask (single use) | FFP3 respirator | Disposable eye protection (single use)** | Disposal bags (for waste)* | Hand Hygiene (hand washing or hand sanitiser) |
| Well healthcare worker (HCW) with well patient with no symptoms of COVID-19 (maintain >2m social distancing where possible) | x | x | x | x | x | x | √ | √ |
| Entry to cohort area (only if necessary) no patient contact | x | x | x | √ | x | x | √ | √ |
| Well healthcare worker (HCW) within 1 metre of a patient with possible/confirmed COVID-19 (patients with symptoms of COVID-19) | √ | √ | x | √ | x | √ (where risk of splashing) | √ | √ |
| High risk units where AGPs are being conducted on patients with symptoms of COVID-19 e.g. ICU/ITU/HDU | √ | √ | x | x | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Aerosol generating procedures on patients with symptoms of COVID-19 (any setting) | x | √ | √ | x | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Well staff cleaning areas where patients with symptoms of COVID-19 are/have been | √ | √ | x | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | x | x (unless visible bodily fluids) | √ | √ |

* Waste must be disposed of following clinical waste guidelines

** If single use eye protection is not available, it must be washed and dried between clients

National guidance

- [COVID-19: Infection prevention and control guidance](#)
- [NHS Coronavirus guidance for clinicians](#)

Additional information

Reporting Supply disruption (taken from NHS Guidance on supply and use of PPE letter 20 March 2020)

The supply distribution helpline can answer PPE calls and emails 24/7 via the supply disruption helpline on 0800 915 9964 or email supplydisruption@nhsbsa.nhs.uk to help with queries. Emails will be answered within one hour.

Shelf life of PPE items (taken from NHS Guidance on supply and use of PPE letter 20 March 2020)

- The NHS's stockpiled PPE is checked as part of the stock management process operated through the NHS Supply Chain. This means rotating stock to make sure that items which have been there the longest are issued first.
- Some products may appear to have out-of-date 'use by/expiration' dates or have relabelled 'use by/expiration' dates. Please be assured products being issued have passed stringent tests that demonstrate they are safe. The PPE is exposed to extreme conditions for prolonged periods, to see how the product deteriorates. All that are not up to standard are destroyed and not distributed.
- We have been working with independent test facilities and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who, after being provided with scientific evidence, were content with our assessment that these are safe to use.

Guidance on putting on and removal of PPE (donning and doffing)

PHE have produced guidance and videos for the donning and doffing of [PPE use for NON-aerosol generating procedures](#) and [PPE use for aerosol generating procedures](#)

Please note:

- **These tables have been produced by Surrey County Council Public Health and PHE South East Health Protection Team on behalf of Surrey LRF SCG.**
- **National guidance is constantly changing, and this document will be updated as necessary.**