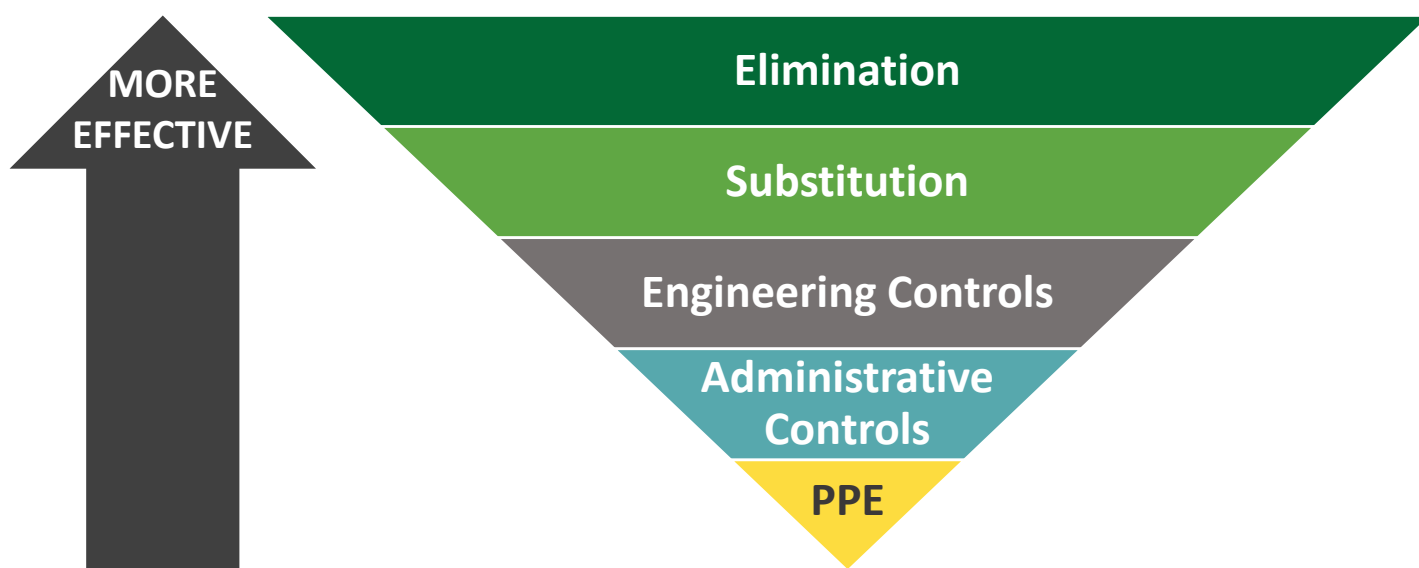




Hierarchy of Control:

How to apply in a COVID-19 Environment

PPE is an effective way to control hazards within a work environment. The Hierarchy of Controls is a system used to deploy effective controls within an organization, workplace, or community to identify the most effective ways to control a hazard. Depicted within the inverted pyramid below, the more effective controls are on the large, top side of the pyramid.



Examples of How to Apply in the Workplace:

When applying the Hierarchy of Controls in a COVID-19 environment, start at the top with the more effective controls and work your way down.

Elimination – Removing the risk entirely (ex: working from home, screening staff and not permitting entry of those who are symptomatic)

Substitution – Although no controls around substitution have been identified for COVID-19, an example of this would be substituting technical grade ethanol with medical grade ethanol in hand sanitizer.

Engineering controls – Using physical or mechanical means to separate the person from the hazard (ex: physical barriers / partitions with plexiglass)

Administrative controls – Use policies, procedures, signage to guide behaviors (i.e.) hand hygiene, physical distancing, masking, limit gatherings.

PPE – Should be considered after careful consideration of the previous control measures (ex: use a [point of care risk assessment](#) to determine the level of PPE needed)