



## Variation and additional PPE:

### Are shoe and head coverings recommended?

Evidence based documents from the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health, England, Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) **do not** include personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations for shoe or head cover use in airborne, droplet and contact precautions for COVID-19 patients.

Hair and shoe coverings are not required PPE when caring for patients/residents/clients with COVID-19. Adding your own additional pieces of PPE beyond those recommended may result in harm by increasing risk of self-contamination during the doffing process.

For suspect/confirmed COVID-19 patients, [Droplet/Contact PLUS precautions](#) should be used.

#### Hair Covers:

There are **no** evidence-based guidelines supporting the use of hair coverings in clinical settings caring for COVID patients.

#### Shoe Covers:

There are **no** evidence-based guidelines supporting the use of shoe coverings in clinical settings caring for COVID patients.

**Infection Prevention and Control does not endorse the use of head or shoe covers as part of PPE for prevention of transmission of COVID-19.**



### Exceptions

There are specific dress codes that pertain to certain department areas that may require the use of disposable hair coverings (i.e., operating rooms (OR), medical device reprocessing departments (MDR) and food and nutrition services areas).

- Hair covers (e.g. bouffant caps) in operating rooms and reprocessing areas are used to contain loose hair or prevent hair from obscuring the clinician's visual field and prevent the clinician's hair from contaminating aseptic field/sterile supplies. Disposable bouffant caps are one time use and are discarded in the garbage.
- Shoes in the MDR and OR departments are dedicated to the area.
- If cloth hair coverings (including headbands/ear protectors) are used in other areas, they need to be laundered daily with your uniform.