



CONTINUOUS* and EXTENDED USE** PPE GUIDELINES when caring for Patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in Acute Care

*[Continuous face mask use](#): all healthcare workers who come into contact with patients during the course of their shift must wear a face mask at all times

**Extended use of face masks¹ and eye protection²: is the practice of wearing the same face mask and eye protection for repeated interactions with multiple patients for the maximum of one complete shift.

- **NOTE:** The PPE requirements outlined in this guideline may need to be modified to reflect the differences in the physical layout and type of activity performed by staff within these sites. Any modifications to the PPE requirements must be based on a point of care risk assessment and using professional and clinical judgement
- Staff should refer to the [HCW Exposure Risk Matrix Assessment Tool](#) for guidance on potential exposures to COVID-19

Location	Staff Type Examples	Activity	PPE Required	Comments
Facility and Department Entrances, Reception (in clinical care areas)	Screeners, Security Services	Preliminary screening of patients and/or staff and/or visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face mask • Eye protection • Gown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift • Gown: Change when wet or soiled and before breaks and at end of shift • Gloves: Not recommended • Perform hand hygiene frequently
Inpatient Rooms/ Emergency Department Setting	Direct Care Staff (RNs, Physicians, etc.)	Providing care to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled, or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift • Gown and gloves: Change between each patient encounter • Perform hand hygiene according to SHA Hand Hygiene Policy



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<p>Inpatient Rooms/ Emergency Department Setting</p>	<p>Direct Care Staff (RNs, Physicians, etc.)</p>	<p>Providing care to patients (Aerosol generating medical procedure [AGMP] performed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked) • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator: Extend use for multiple AGMPs. Change N95 respirator IF it becomes wet, damaged, or soiled. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • N95 respirator: Extend use for single AGMP. Change N95 respirator IF it becomes wet, damaged, or soiled. Discard when taking a scheduled break and return to continuous mask use guidelines • Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift • Gown and gloves: Change between each patient encounter • Perform hand hygiene according to SHA Hand Hygiene Policy
<p>Inpatient Rooms/ Emergency Department Settings</p>	<p>Environmental Service Workers</p>	<p>Cleaning patient environment <u>Do not enter IF</u> Droplet/Contact Plus AND Airborne Precaution Signage or Aerosolize settle time sign is posted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift • Gown and gloves: Change between each patient environment encounter • Perform hand hygiene according to SHA Hand Hygiene Policy



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<p>Inpatient Rooms/ Emergency Department Settings</p>	<p>Other Staff (Therapists, Lab, Social Work, Maintenance, etc.)</p>	<p>Entering one patient room <u>Do not enter IF</u> Droplet/Contact Plus AND Airborne Precaution Signage or <u>Aerosolize settle time</u> sign is posted and you are not fit-tested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect between each patient encounter. Discard face shield at the end of shift • Gown and gloves: Change between each patient encounter • Perform hand hygiene according to SHA Hand Hygiene Policy
<p>Patient Transport Outside Room</p>	<p>Transporter(s)</p>	<p>Assisting with transport of patient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves <p>NOTE: Have patient wear a mask if able to tolerate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift • Gown and gloves: Change between each patient encounter • Perform hand hygiene according to SHA Hand Hygiene Policy
<p>All Other Clinical Care Areas</p>	<p>All Staff (Registration Staff, Unit Clerks, etc.)</p>	<p>Any</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face mask • Additional PPE as per Point of Care Risk Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Perform hand hygiene frequently



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Screening Areas (outside of clinical care areas)	Screeners	Screening of patients and/or staff and/or visitors If partition is NOT in place and/or 2 metre physical distancing is NOT possible (e.g., tympanic temp. takers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face Mask Eye Protection and Gown* <p>*If screening staff ONLY, eye protection and gown are not required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Eye Protection: Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift Gown: Change when wet or soiled and before breaks and at end of shift Gloves: Not recommended Perform hand hygiene frequently
		Screening of patients and/or staff and/or visitors If partition in place and/or able to maintain 2 metre physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face Mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Gloves: Not recommended Perform hand hygiene frequently
Registration (outside of clinical care areas)	Registration Staff	If partition is NOT in place and/or 2 metre physical distancing is NOT possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face Mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask: Change IF it becomes wet, soiled or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Gloves: Not recommended Perform hand hygiene frequently
		If partition in place and/or able to maintain 2 metre physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No PPE required or PPE as per Point of Care Risk Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform hand hygiene frequently Note: comment on non-medical masks³
All Other Areas (outside of clinical care areas)	Other Staff (not listed in this table)	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No PPE required or PPE as per Point of Care Risk Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform hand hygiene frequently Note: comment on non-medical masks³



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¹**Face mask** defined as a procedure or surgical mask

- Refer to the PPE Rapid Update - [Appropriate Procedure Mask](#) Use for more information

²**Eye protection** defined as face shield or goggles

- Refer to PPE Rapid Updates – [Eye Protection](#) and [Disinfecting Face Shields](#) for more information

³**Non-medical masks:** The use of personal non-medical masks (e.g. cloth) has not been approved at this time, but will be reviewed frequently and new direction may be forthcoming.

References:

Public Health Ontario: [Updated IPAC Recommendations for Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#)

World Health Organization: [Rational use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) for coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) and considerations during severe shortages](#)

Vancouver Coastal Health: [PPE Recommendations \(for health care personnel participating in patient care\) – Acute](#)

Shared Health Manitoba: [Provincial Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)

World Health Organization: [Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 Interim Guidance June 5, 2020](#)

Alberta Health Services: [AHS IPC Recommendations-PPE Table for COVID-19 Assessment Centres & ED/UCC](#)