



# CONTINUOUS\* and EXTENDED USE\*\* PPE GUIDELINES COVID-19 ASSESSMENT and TESTING CENTRES and MOBILE TESTING

\*[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 masks<sup>1</sup> and eye protection<sup>2</sup>: 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 testing and assessment 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

Staff Type Examples	Activity	PPE Required	Comments
Front Reception Area (Security Services, Registration Staff, etc.)	Wayfinding and directing patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Additional PPE as per <a href="#">Point of Care Risk Assessment</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mask:</b> Change IF it becomes wet, soiled, or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene frequently</li> </ul>
*Clinical Providers (RNs, Physicians, etc.)  (in drive through testing site or in-facility testing/assessment site)	Interviews, assessment (i.e., vital signs), and collection of specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mask:</b> Change IF it becomes wet, soiled, or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection:</b> Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gown and gloves:</b> Change between each patient encounter</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene according to <a href="#">SHA Hand Hygiene Policy</a></li> </ul>
	Collection of specimens ONLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mask:</b> Change IF it becomes wet, soiled, or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection:</b> Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gown:</b> Change when wet or soiled. Remove before breaks and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gloves:</b> Change between each patient encounter</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene according to <a href="#">SHA Hand Hygiene Policy</a></li> </ul>



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<p>Environmental Services</p>	<p>Cleaning of the facility and assessment rooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mask:</b> Change IF it becomes wet, soiled, or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection:</b> Remove/disinfect before a scheduled break and at the end of shift. Discard face shield at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gown:</b> Change when wet or soiled. Remove before breaks and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gloves:</b> Change as per facility protocol (or when moving from one patient area to another or between rooms/spaces)</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene according to <a href="#">SHA Hand Hygiene Policy</a></li> </ul>
<p>Administrative Staff</p>	<p>Administrative duties performed in an office with door closed or 2 metres away from patients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE required</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene frequently</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> <i>comment on non-medical masks</i><sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	
<p>Clinical Providers - Responsible for specimen collection in client homes</p>	<p>Collection of specimens ONLY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mask:</b> Change IF it becomes wet, soiled, or damaged. Discard when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection:</b> Remove/disinfect when leaving client home. Discard face shield at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gown:</b> Use same gown when collecting multiple specimens within a single household. Remove gown when leaving client home</li> <li>• <b>Gloves:</b> Change between each patient encounter</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene according to <a href="#">SHA Hand Hygiene Policy</a></li> </ul>



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<sup>1</sup>**Face mask** defined as a procedure or surgical mask

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

<sup>2</sup>**Eye protection** defined as face shield or goggles

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

<sup>3</sup>**Non-medical masks:** The use of personal non-medical masks (e.g. cloth) has not been approved for the health care setting at this time, but is currently being reviewed and further 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 \(for health care personnel participating in patient care\) – Community](#)

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](#)