



# CONTINUOUS\* and EXTENDED USE\*\* PPE GUIDELINES when caring for Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 in Designated Units/Rooms

\*[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 a maximum of one complete shift

\*\*Extended use of gown<sup>3</sup>: is the practice of wearing the same gown for repeated interactions with multiple COVID positive patients for an extended period of time until the gown becomes wet, soiled or damaged, or prior to entering the common clinical spaces<sup>4</sup>

**General Principles:**

- In this document, the term “patient” is inclusive of patient or resident
- In Designated COVID Positive Units/Rooms<sup>5</sup> staff should be cohorted
- If staff is required to move from COVID positive patient rooms to suspect patient rooms, gown and gloves must be changed
- Staff should refer to the [HCW Exposure Risk Matrix Assessment Tool](#) for guidance on potential exposures to COVID-19
- **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.

| Location  | Staff Type Examples                       | Activity                            | PPE Required  | Comments   |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| COVID-19 Designated Unit/Rooms (Does <u>not</u> include common clinical spaces <sup>4</sup> ) | Direct Care Staff (RNs, Physicians, etc.) | Providing care to multiple patients | <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 entering common clinical spaces, 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>COVID-19 Designated Unit/Rooms (Does <u>not</u> include common clinical spaces<sup>4</sup>)</p> | <p>Direct Care Staff (RNs, Physicians, etc.)</p> | <p>Providing care to multiple patients (<a href="#">Aerosol generating medical procedure</a> [AGMP] performed)</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked)</li> <li>• Eye Protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>N95 respirator:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>N95 respirator:</b> 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</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 entering common clinical spaces, 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> |
| <p>COVID-19 Designated Unit/Rooms (Does <u>not</u> include common clinical spaces<sup>4</sup>)</p> | <p>Environmental Service Workers</p>             | <p>Cleaning multiple patient rooms<br/><u>Do not enter IF Droplet/Contact Plus AND Airborne Precaution Signage or <a href="#">Aerosolize settle time</a> sign is posted</u></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 entering common clinical spaces, before breaks and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gloves:</b> Change between each patient environment encounter</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene according to <a href="#">SHA Hand Hygiene Policy</a></li> </ul>   |



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|   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| COVID-19 Designated Unit/Rooms  | Other Staff (Therapists, Lab, Social Work, Maintenance, etc.) | Entering patient room(s)<br><u>Do not enter IF Droplet/Contact Plus AND Airborne Precaution Signage or <a href="#">Aerosolize settle time</a> sign is posted and you are not fit-tested</u> | <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 between each patient encounter. 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>                  |
| Patient Transport Outside Room  | Transporter(s)  | Assisting with transport of patient   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face Mask</li> <li>• Eye Protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Have patient wear a mask if able to tolerate</p> | <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> |
| Common Clinical Spaces <sup>4</sup> in the COVID-19 Designated Unit/Rooms | All staff   | Performing work duties  | <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>   |



# CONTINUOUS\* and EXTENDED USE\*\* PPE GUIDELINES when caring for Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 in Designated Units/Rooms

<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>**Gowns** may be disposable or reusable and a minimum of Level 2 barrier protection

<sup>4</sup>**Common clinical spaces** include common works spaces away from the direct care patient environment such as the nursing desk or unit work station, medication room, sterile or clean supply room and utility rooms. This area would not include a corridor or space between designated COVID positive private rooms or multi-bed rooms

<sup>5</sup>**Designated COVID Positive Units/Rooms** only confirmed COVID positive patients to be admitted. Minimal supplies are to be taken into these rooms. A **buddy system** should be used to support the in-room staff if additional supplies or medication is needed. If appropriate staff could call the patient(s) in advance to determine specific needs before entering the room. A buddy would be important to monitor PPE donning and doffing

<sup>6</sup>**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 Dedicated Units](#)