



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

This document provides recommendations for Continuous face mask¹ use and Extended use of face masks¹ and eye protection².

***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 and eye protection:** 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.

Location in Acute Care	Staff Type Examples	Activity	PPE Required	Comments
Patient room	Direct Care Staff (RNs, Physicians, etc.,)	Providing care to patients (no Aerosol-generating medical procedures [AGMPs] being performed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face Mask Eye Protection Gown Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter
		Providing care to patients (AGMPs being performed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> once or short term) AGMP list/risk algorithm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked) Eye Protection Gown Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change N95 respirator once AGMP is complete and settle/clearance time achieved. Unless N95 is required for further AGMP, switch to face mask and change mask as described above Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at end of shift Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter Essential staff only during AGMP
		Providing care to patients (AGMPs being performed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuously or intermittently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked) Eye Protection Gown Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change N95 respirator IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Eye Protection remove/disinfect when leaving the unit before a scheduled break or at the end of shift Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter Essential staff only



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	Environmental service workers	<p>Cleaning patient environment</p> <p>Do not enter IF Droplet/Contact Plus AND Airborne Precaution Signage is posted- wait for Aerosolize settle time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift • Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient environment encounter
Patient room	Other Staff (e.g., therapists lab, social work, maintenance, etc.)	Entering patient room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection remove/disinfect between each patient encounter • Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter
Patient room	Visitors (compassionate reasons only)	Entering patient room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face mask (if available) • Gown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene frequently
Medically Necessary Patient Transport (i.e., testing cannot be done at bedside)	Transporter(s)	Assisting with transport of patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves <p>Have patient wear a mask if able to tolerate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift • Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter • Minimize the number of people involved in transport
Other areas on unit	All staff	Performing work duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face mask • Additional PPE as per point of care risk assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Perform hand hygiene frequently



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Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care settings	Direct Care Staff	Exam or assessment of patients (no AGMP being performed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • <u>Eye Protection</u> remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift • <u>Gown and gloves</u> must be changed between each patient encounter
		Exam or assessment of patients (AGMP being performed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked) • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Change N95 respirator</u> once AGMP is complete and settle/clearance time has been achieved. • Unless N95 is required for further AGMPs, switch to face mask and changed as described above • <u>Eye Protection</u> remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift • <u>Gown and gloves</u> must be changed between each patient encounter
Registration, Staff/Visitor Screening, and/or Triage areas	Security personnel, staff and/or visitor screeners, registration staff, triage staff, etc.	Staff providing daily screening and/or registration/triage of staff, patients, or visitors (No partition or 2 metre distancing in place e.g. tympanic temp. takers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face mask • Eye Protection • Gown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • <u>Eye Protection</u> remove/disinfect before a scheduled shift or at the end of shift • <u>Change gown</u> when wet or soiled and before scheduled breaks and at end of shift • Gloves not recommended • Perform hand hygiene frequently
	Security personnel, staff and/or visitor screeners, registration staff, triage staff, etc.	Staff providing daily screening and/or registration/triage of staff, patients, or visitors (Partition or 2 metre distancing in place e.g. tympanic temp. takers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Gloves not recommended • Perform hand hygiene frequently



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Facility-general	Other staff Not listed in this table	Potential for patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face mask • Additional PPE as per point of care risk assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift • Perform hand hygiene frequently
		No potential for patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No PPE required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene frequently • Note: comment on non-medical masks³

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

- The face mask should be removed and discarded if soiled or damaged, or hard to breathe through
- Staff must take care not to touch their face mask. If they touch or adjust their face mask they must immediately perform hand hygiene
- Staff should leave the patient care environment if they need to remove the face mask

²**Eye protection** defined as goggles or face shield (may be disposable or reusable devices)

- Eye protection should be removed and reprocessed if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through
- Eye protection should be discarded if damaged (e.g., face shield can no longer fasten securely to the provider, if visibility is obscured and reprocessing does not restore visibility)
- Staff should take care not to touch their eye protection. If they touch or adjust their eye protection they must immediately perform hand hygiene
- Staff should leave the patient care environment if they need to remove their eye protection

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

References:

Public Health Ontario: Updated IPAC Recommendations for PPE Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19
 WHO: Rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
 Alberta Health Services: AHS IPC Recommendations-PPE Table for COVID-19 Assessment Centres & ERs with Pre-Triage
 Vancouver Coastal Health: PPE Recommendations – Acute
 Shared Health Manitoba: Provincial Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 WHO: Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 Interim Guidance Apr 6, 2020