



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

This document provides recommendations for Continuous face mask<sup>1</sup> use and Extended use of face masks<sup>1</sup> and eye protection<sup>2</sup>.

\*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

Staff Type Examples	Tasks	PPE Required	Comments
-Greeter (initial contact) -Security Services	Wayfinding and directing patients to clean their hands and don face mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect, when taking a scheduled break or at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Change gown</b> when wet or soiled, before breaks and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gloves not recommended</b></li> <li>• <b>Perform hand hygiene frequently</b></li> </ul>
ILI criteria screeners	Asking patients screening questions (in person or within 2 metres) and directing them to the assessment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> </ul>	
Registration clerks (where applicable)	Giving patients registration materials and entering data (in person or within 2 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> </ul>	
Clinical Providers (e.g. nurses, physicians, etc.)	Interviews, assessment (i.e., vital signs), NP or throat swab collection	<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>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect when taking a schedule break or at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gown and gloves</b> must be changed between each patient encounter</li> </ul>
Housekeeper Environmental Services	Cleaning of the facility and assessment rooms with no direct or indirect patient contact	<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>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect when taking a scheduled break or at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Change gown</b> when wet or soiled and before breaks and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Change gloves and perform hand hygiene as per facility protocol</b> (or when moving from one patient area to another, or between rooms/spaces)</li> </ul>
Other Staff -not on this list	Potential for patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face mask</li> <li>• Additional PPE as per point of care risk assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged, soiled or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Perform hand hygiene frequently</b></li> </ul>
	No potential for patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Perform hand hygiene frequently</b></li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> comment on non-medical masks<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>



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

- 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 the need to remove the face mask

<sup>2</sup>**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

<sup>3</sup> **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.

#### Sources:

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 – Community

WHO: Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 Interim Guidance Apr 6, 2020