



CONTINUOUS*and EXTENDED USE* PPE GUIDELINES Home Care/Home Services

This document provides recommendations for Continuous face mask¹ use, Extended use of face masks¹ and eye protection² and Limited re-use³ of face masks within the home care setting

***Continuous face mask use:** all healthcare workers who come into contact with residents 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 residents for the maximum of one complete shift.

***Limited re-use of face masks:** is the practice of using the same face mask by one health care provider for multiple encounters with different patients, but removing it after each encounter

Location	Staff Type Examples	Activity	PPE Required	Comments
Client Home	Direct Care Staff (RNs, LPNs, CCAs, Therapists, Lab, etc.,)	Providing client care (Asymptomatic clients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask • Additional PPE as per routine practices (point of care risk assessment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change mask IF it becomes wet, damaged, soiled, as per limited re-use instructions below and at end of shift • Perform hand hygiene frequently
		Providing client care (Client or member of household is suspect/confirmed COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19)	<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, as per limited re-use instructions below and at end of shift • Eye Protection remove/disinfect when leaving client home. Clean eye protection should be reapplied prior to entering next client's home • Gown and gloves must be removed when leaving client home
		Providing client care (AGMP performed on client with suspect/confirmed COVID-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked) • Eye Protection • Gown • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGMPs performed on suspect/confirmed COVID-19 in community setting should only be performed when absolutely necessary • N95 respirator remove upon leaving client's home • Eye Protection remove/disinfect when leaving client home. Clean eye protection should be reapplied prior to entering next client's home • Gown and gloves must be removed when leaving client home



¹Face mask defined as a procedure or surgical mask

- Staff must take care not to touch the outer surfaces of the mask. If they touch or adjust their face mask, they must immediately perform hand hygiene
- Staff should leave the client care environment if they need to remove the face mask
- Not all face masks can be re-used. Face masks that fasten to the provider via ties may not be able to be undone without tearing and should be considered only for extended use, rather than re-use. Face masks with elastic ear loops may be more suitable for re-use

²Eye protection defined as goggles or face shield (maybe 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 resident care environment if they need to remove their eye protection

³Limited re-use of face masks

- Mask removal and replacement should be done in a careful and deliberate manner, taking care not to touch the outer surface of the mask.
- Between client interactions, face masks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is turned inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container.

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)

Vancouver Coastal Health: PPE Recommendations – Community

Shared Health Manitoba: Provincial Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – In Home Care/Services

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

CDC: Coronavirus COVID-19 Strategies for the Optimization of face masks