



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 Primary Care | Staff Type Examples | Activity | PPE Required | Comments |
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| Consultation room/area | Direct Care Staff (RNs, NPs, Physicians, Therapists, Lab, etc.,) | Client care/assessment 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 or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Perform hand hygiene frequently |
| | | Client care/assessment individuals with suspected or confirmed 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 or when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at end of shift Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter |
| | | Client care/assessment individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 Aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) required AGMP list/algorithm | <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 clients in a community setting should only be done if absolutely necessary 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 Face mask as described above Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift Gown and gloves must be changed between each patient encounter Essential staff only during AGMP-keep door closed during and after procedure |



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| | Environmental service workers or Cleaning staff | After hours daily cleaning | <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 client room cleaned |
| Reception, Staff Screening of Triage areas | Reception staff, screening staff, triage staff | Staff providing daily screening &/or registration of staff or clients (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 • Eye Protection remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift • Change gown when wet or soiled and before scheduled breaks and at end of shift • Gloves not recommended • Perform hand hygiene frequently |
| | Reception staff, screening staff, triage staff | Staff providing daily screening &/or registration of staff or clients (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 • Perform hand hygiene frequently |
| Waiting room | Clients with Respiratory symptoms or suspected to have COVID-19 | Any | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to provide face mask to clients, if able to tolerate, as well as tissues • Have client perform hand hygiene | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have client maintain physical distance of at least 2 metres or place them in a private room to wait for appointment |



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| Primary Care Facility - general | Other Staff not listed in this table | Potential for patient contact (i.e. if walking or working in areas where patients will be within 2 metres) | <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 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 |

¹Face 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 they need to remove the face mask

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 patient care environment if they need to remove their eye protection

³Non-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