

When to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The below follows [Government Guidance](#) on when to use PPE in both healthcare and non-healthcare settings. Please read carefully as the controls will differ between settings.

If for any reason PPE is not available for use then the Service Manager should immediately inform the Corporate Health and Safety Team.

Safe ways of working for all employees

- staff should be trained on donning and doffing PPE. Videos are available for training
- staff should know what PPE they should wear for each setting and context
- staff should have access to the PPE that protects them for the appropriate setting and context
- gloves and aprons are subject to single use with disposal after each patient or resident contact
- fluid repellent surgical mask and eye protection can be used for a session of work rather than a single patient or resident contact
- gowns or coveralls can be worn for a session of work in higher risk areas
- hand hygiene should be practiced and extended to exposed forearms, after removing any element of PPE
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Non-healthcare settings (only essential or emergency visits should be made)

Setting	Controls							
	Distancing measures	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid repellent coverall/gown	Surgical Mask	Fluid repellent surgical face mask	FFP2/FFP3 mask	Eye/face protection ¹
Visit to service user's home or working with colleagues - no symptoms of Covid-19	Maintain 2 metre distance e.g. by asking resident to remain in separate room and opening window	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Setting	Controls							
	Distancing measures	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid repellent coverall/gown	Surgical Mask	Fluid repellent surgical face mask	FFP2/FFP3 mask	Eye/face protection ¹
Visit to service user's home - displaying symptoms of Covid-19	Maintain 2 metre distance e.g. by asking resident to remain in separate room and opening window	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Visit to home of service user with possible or confirmed case of Covid-19²	Maintain 2 metre distance e.g. by asking resident to remain in separate room and opening window	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Visit to home of service user who is shielding or where other occupants are shielding	Maintain 2 metre distance e.g. by asking resident to remain in separate room and opening window	No	No	No	Single use ³ Or normal RPE which is cleaned before and after visit.	No	No	No

Healthcare setting

Where the care worker is unable to establish that no-one in the household has symptoms of coronavirus (either by telephone call or initial assessment at the property with 2 metre separation) then care workers in any setting are required wear aprons, fluid repellent surgical face mask, eye protection and gloves. Whilst it is acknowledged that it will not generally be possible to maintain a 2 metre separation when providing care, contact within 2 metres should be kept to a minimum.

Setting	Controls							
	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid repellent coverall/gown	Surgical Mask	Fluid repellent surgical face mask	FFP2/FFP3 mask	Eye/face protection ¹
Any Setting	Direct patient/resident care or assessing an individual that is not currently a possible or confirmed case ² (within 2 metres)	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Sessional use ⁴ where possible otherwise Single use ³	No	Risk assess ⁷ Sessional use ⁴
Any Setting	Performing an aerosol generating procedure ⁹ on an individual that is not currently a possible or confirmed case ^{2,7}	Single use ³	No	Single use ³	No	Sessional use ⁴ where possible otherwise Single use ³	Single use ³	Single use ³
Any Setting	Patient transport service driver conveying any individual to essential	No	No	No	Single use ³	Sessional use ⁴ where possible otherwise Single use ³	No	No

Setting	Controls							
	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid repellent coverall/gown	Surgical Mask	Fluid repellent surgical face mask	FFP2/FFP3 mask	Eye/face protection ¹
	healthcare appointment, that is not currently a possible or confirmed case in vehicle without a bulkhead, no direct patient care and within 2 metres							
Care provided in residents own home	Direct care, i.e. within 2 metres, to any member of the household where no member of the household has symptoms	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Single use ³	No	No
Care provided in residents own home	Direct care to any member of the household where any member of the household is a possible or confirmed case ^{2,6}	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Single use ³		Risk assess ⁷ Sessional use ⁴
Care provided in	Direct care or visit to any	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No

Setting	Controls							
	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid repellent coverall/gown	Surgical Mask	Fluid repellent surgical face mask	FFP2/FFP3 mask	Eye/face protection ¹
residents own home	individuals in the extremely vulnerable group or where a member of the household is within the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding ⁸							
Community and social care, care home	No symptomatic cases in residents	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Sessional use ⁴	No	No
Community and social care, care home B	Facility with possible or confirmed case(s) ² – and direct resident care (within 2 metres)	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Sessional use ⁴	No	Risk assess ⁷ Sessional use ⁴
Community and social care, care home C	Providing care to possible cases in the care setting - Residents who have developed symptoms in care home or have been	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Sessional use ⁴	No	Risk assess ⁷ Sessional use ⁴

Setting	Controls							
	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid repellent coverall/gown	Surgical Mask	Fluid repellent surgical face mask	FFP2/FFP3 mask	Eye/face protection ¹
	admitted from community with symptoms.							
Community and social care, care home	Providing care to all other residents in affected unit because of contact (marked B or C in column 1) but have no symptoms	Single use ³	Single use ³	No	No	Sessional use ⁴	No	No

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.

2. A case is any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases/investigation-and-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection>

3. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).

4. A single session refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round; providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment.

Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.

5. Non-clinical staff should maintain 2m social distancing, through marking out a controlled distance; sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of community cases.

6. Initial risk assessment should take place by phone prior to entering the premises or at 2 metres social distance on entering; where the health or social care worker assesses that an individual is symptomatic with suspected/confirmed cases appropriate PPE should be put on prior to providing care. Ultimately, where staff consider there is a risk to themselves or the individuals they are caring for they should wear a fluid repellent surgical mask with or without eye protection, as determined by the individual staff member for the episode of care or single session

7. Risk assessed use refers to utilising PPE when there is an anticipated/likely risk of contamination with splashes, droplets or blood or body fluids.

8. For explanation of shielding and definition of extremely vulnerable groups see guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

9. The list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is included in section 8.1 at: https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2893/documents/1_tbp-lr-agp-v1.1.1.pdf

10. put in RPE cleaning link <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/face-mask-ppe-rpe-coronavirus.htm>