

ALERT LEVEL 2: Personal protective equipment (PPE) in Maternity settings

If you **do not know someone's COVID-19 status** - prior to contact with them (by phone), or upon entry to maternity unit, while maintaining physical distancing of at least 1 m, please ask them the risk assessment questions outlined in *Alert Level 2: Risk assessment questions if COVID-19 status is unknown*.¹

The **risk assessment** will help you determine appropriate PPE for initial contact.

No matter what a person's COVID-19 status is, follow Standard Precautions² for all care, use appropriate clinical judgement for PPE and refer to your organisational IPC guidance.

Table 1: Women who are **probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases, or meet the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria**³

In addition to Standard Precautions, apply Contact and Droplet Precautions. ² Please provide the woman a mask to wear until they are in a single room.	 Hand Hygiene ⁴	 Medical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask ⁵	 Eye Protection ⁶	 Gloves	 Fluid Resistant Gown or Plastic apron
Providing care	✓	✓	✗ ⁷	✓	✓	✓

Table 2: Women who have **no new or worsening respiratory symptoms**,³ however in the last 14 days they have travelled overseas⁸ or had close contact with someone who is a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case⁹













Standard Precautions apply. ² Please provide the woman a mask to wear until they are in a single room.	 Hand Hygiene ⁴	 Medical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask ⁵	 Eye Protection ⁶	 Gloves	 Fluid Resistant Gown or Plastic apron
Providing care not involving exposure to body fluids	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Providing cares that may involve exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, or medication assistance (Including: taking bloods/vaginal swabs, doing a stretch and sweep)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Early first stage of labour care	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
During birth care (late first, second and third stage)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

Table 3: Women who are **not probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases, and do not meet the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria**³ (and do not meet Table 2 criteria)

Standard Precautions apply ² as per normal practice. Note: If you cannot maintain 1m physical distancing as an additional precautionary measure you may wear a mask for source control. See advice on types of masks : www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health	 Hand Hygiene ⁴	 Medical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask ⁵	 Eye Protection ⁶	 Gloves	 Fluid Resistant Gown or Plastic apron
Providing care not involving exposure to body fluids	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Providing cares that may involve exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, or medication assistance (Including: taking bloods/vaginal swabs, doing a stretch and sweep)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Early first stage of labour care	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
During birth care (late first, second and third stage)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

Please refer to guidance on how to safely put on, take off and dispose of PPE: www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health

- www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health
- Frequently Asked Questions about PPE*, available at www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health
- As per the case definition: www.health.govt.nz/covid19-case-definition
- Perform hand hygiene. www.handhygiene.org.nz
- P2/N95 respirator must comply with AS/NZS 1716:2012 Respiratory protective devices.
- Face shield or goggles. Prescription glasses are not classed as eye protection
- N95/P2 mask should only be used if aerosol generating procedures are performed
- This does not apply to those women who have worked on an international aircraft or shipping vessel (for example, air or maritime crew), unless they have been asked to self-isolate. Follow Table 3 above. Other control measures are sufficient that if they are asymptomatic, only Standard Precautions are required
- In this situation, they have a very small chance of being a pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID-19 case if they have been exposed to COVID-19