

## ALERT LEVEL 3: 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 2 m, please ask them the risk assessment questions outlined in *Alert Level 3: Risk assessment questions if COVID-19 status is unknown*.<sup>1</sup>

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

No matter what a person's COVID-19 status is, follow Standard Precautions<sup>2</sup> 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**<sup>3</sup>

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

Table 2: Women who have **no new or worsening respiratory symptoms**,<sup>3</sup> however in the last 14 days they have travelled overseas<sup>8</sup> or had close contact with someone who is a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case<sup>9</sup>













Standard Precautions apply. <sup>2</sup> Please provide the woman a mask to wear until they are in a single room.	 Hand Hygiene <sup>4</sup>	 Surgical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask <sup>5</sup>	 Eye Protection <sup>6</sup>	 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**<sup>3</sup> (and do not meet Table 2 criteria)

Standard Precautions apply <sup>2</sup> as per normal practice.	 Hand Hygiene <sup>4</sup>	 Surgical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask <sup>5</sup>	 Eye Protection <sup>6</sup>	 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](http://www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health)

- [www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health](http://www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health)
- Frequently Asked Questions about PPE*, available at [www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health](http://www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health)
- As per the case definition: [www.health.govt.nz/covid19-case-definition](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid19-case-definition)
- Perform hand hygiene. [www.handhygiene.org.nz](http://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