

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for taking COVID-19 naso/oropharyngeal swabs

This guidance is based on Infection Prevention and Control best practice with regards to Standard and Transmission Based Precautions.¹

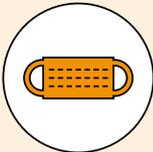
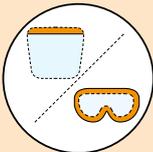
The wearing of PPE is to mitigate any infectious risk posed to the healthcare worker when collecting a naso/oropharyngeal swab from people who meet either or both of the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria for COVID-19.² Close contact is required and the person may cough and /or sneeze during taking of the swab or upon removal of the swab.

General advice:

- Stand slightly to the side of the patient when taking the swab, not directly in front of them
- Move away when the procedure is completed
- Patients should be provided with tissues to contain coughs and sneezes throughout the procedure

If collecting a series of swabs (e.g. CBACs, testing clinics, sessional setting):

- Change your gloves and perform hand hygiene between each patient
- A surgical mask can be worn for the duration of the session, or until the mask becomes damp or soiled
- Eye protection and an apron/gown can be worn for the duration of the session, as long as they are not damaged or visibly contaminated

	<p>Always perform hand hygiene when putting on and taking off PPE³</p>	<p>Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or wash your hands with soap and water and dry hands thoroughly. Perform hand hygiene according to the WHO '5 moments for hand hygiene'⁴</p>
	<p>Surgical Mask</p>	<p>To prevent exposure of the nose and mouth mucosa for all interactions with a known or suspected infectious patient.</p>
	<p>Eye protection</p>	<p>To provide an additional layer of protection against exposure to the COVID-19 virus through the conjunctiva of the eye use a face shield or goggles. Prescription glasses are not classed as eye protection.¹</p>
	<p>Plastic apron or long sleeve fluid-resistant gown⁵</p>	<p>To protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing when the health care worker is in contact with the patient or immediate environment.</p>
	<p>Non-sterile Gloves</p>	<p>Gloves should be worn because of potential exposure to respiratory secretions. Hand hygiene should be performed before putting on and after taking off gloves.</p>

1 Refer to *Frequently Asked questions about PPE*, available at: www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health

2 See the COVID-19 definition, available at: www.health.govt.nz/covid19-case-definition

3 Refer to guidance on PPE available at: www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health

4 www.handhygiene.org.nz

5 Note: When collecting a swab from someone who does not meet either the Clinical or the HIS criteria for COVID-19, a plastic apron or fluid-resistant long sleeve gown is optional, based on a risk assessment of potential exposure to respiratory secretions.