

COVID-19 Interim guide for PPE selection to protect primary and community health and disability care workers

Complete a risk assessment before **every** interaction with the patient/client/resident to select appropriate PPE. All health care and disability workers¹ must be fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 Protection Framework setting	Sporadic cases	Increasing cases	Widespread cases
PATIENT/CLIENT/RESIDENT Their risk of having COVID-19	HEALTH AND DISABILITY CARE WORKER (HCW) ¹ Recommended PPE		
LOWER RISK of COVID-19 infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No COVID-19 related symptoms² and not a close contact of a confirmed case 	Medical mask encouraged	Medical mask in clinical or care area	Medical mask at all times
MODERATE RISK of COVID-19 infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 related symptoms^{2,3} but not a close contact of a confirmed case³ OR No COVID-19 related symptoms but a close contact OR required to self-isolate⁴ 	Medical mask ⁵ and eye protection Wear a gown ⁷ or apron and gloves if exposure to blood or body fluids is likely		Medical mask ^{5,6} and eye protection Wear a gown ⁷ or apron and gloves if exposure to blood or body fluids is likely
HIGHER RISK of COVID-19 infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 related symptoms² and identified as a close contact until test results are available (if clear then care as moderate risk)³ Confirmed COVID-19 case during infectious period³ 	P2/N95 particulate respirator ⁸ and eye protection. Gown ⁷ and gloves for close contact clinical or home support care		

PATIENT/CLIENT/RESIDENT Advice for when to wear a mask
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If LOWER RISK follow the regional COVID-19 Protection Framework advice If MODERATE RISK wear a medical mask or face covering If HIGHER RISK wear a medical mask Aged residential care residents are not required to wear a face covering Exemptions to mask wearing may apply

- HCW include: Home and Community Support Service workers, Aged Care, General Practice, Urgent Care, Community Services.
- COVID-19 related symptoms refer to Ministry of Health case definition, test for COVID-19.
- Defer face to face interaction whenever possible until COVID-19 test results are available, or patient/client/resident is no longer infectious.
- Required to self-isolate under the Health Order (Section 70) or requested by the Medical Officer of Health.
- If intervention requires an aerosol generating procedure, then the HCW should wear a P2/N95 particulate respirator.⁸
- If the care environment is not able to be ventilated i.e., no windows, doors, fresh air or HVAC system and close interaction for longer than 15 minutes is anticipated, the HCW should have access to a P2/N95 particulate respirator.
- Long sleeve fluid resistant gown.
- Any worker who is required to wear a P2/N95 particulate respirator should have undertaken the requisite fit testing and be trained in fit checking.