

13 March 2020

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Dear all

We have had several queries this week about personal protective equipment (PPE), who should be wearing it and when.

The advice on PPE is the same for all healthcare staff and is based on the recommendations reviewed and approved by experts including NHS England and NHS Improvement, Public Health England (PHE), and the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG) which was released this week.

I hope the information below helps to set this out:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Staff swabbing patients or caring for patients with suspected Covid-19 should wear fluid resistant masks (FRSM) and not FFP3 masks.
- FFP3 respirators (fit tested masks) are only required for confirmed cases or suspected cases if staff are undertaking aerosol generating procedures (AGP)

Patient type	Change in guidance
For symptomatic, unconfirmed inpatients meeting the COVID-19 case definition as per Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and SARI (severe acute respiratory illness syndrome).	A fluid resistant surgical mask, gloves, apron and eye protection if risk of splashing into the eyes. A FFP3 mask is not indicated
For confirmed cases of COVID-19 and Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and SARI (severe acute respiratory illness syndrome).	Full PPE ensemble, continue to use FFP3 respirator, disposable eye protection, preferably visor, long sleeved disposable gown and gloves.
For possible and confirmed cases of	Full PPE ensemble as per previous



<p>COVID-19 requiring an (AGP) aerosol generating procedure.</p>	<p>guidance for confirmed cases: FFP3 respirator, disposable eye protection, preferably visor, long sleeved disposable gown and gloves.</p>
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Please note that PPE should only be worn in line with the guidelines above.

Guidelines on how to don and doff PPE can be found on the intranet and our dedicated website page for our people: www.pah.nhs.uk/COVID19

Please challenge any colleagues who are wearing PPE that is not appropriate and challenge staff or visitors who are removing PPE from clinical areas without authorisation as this is putting at risk our ability to protect staff and patients.

Wards and departments will only be issued with the appropriate PPE to care for their patient groups based on the above criteria.

Please do let me know if there is anything else we can clarify via paht.covid19@nhs.net .

Kind regards

Steph Lawton

Chief operating officer

Sarah Webb

Deputy director of nursing and midwifery

