

19 March 2020

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Dear all

COBRA and the Chief Scientific Officer have updated the national guidance on the level of 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 or confirmed Covid-19 should wear fluid resistant masks (FRSM) and not FFP3 masks.
- FFP3 respirators (fit tested masks) are only required for patients who are undertaking aerosol generating procedures (AGP) or ITU/HDU cohort areas

The table below summarises the PPE to be used in which environment

	Entry to cohort ward (only if necessary) no patient contact	General cohort ward areas with direct patient care	ICU/HDU or other designated High risk unit	Aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)
Disposable Gloves	X	✓	✓	✓
Disposable Plastic Apron	X	✓	✓	X



Disposable Gown	X	X	X	✓
Fluid-resistant surgical mask	✓	✓	X	X
FFP 3	X	X	✓	✓
Disposable Eye protection	X	Risk assess for confirmed or suspected patients who are coughing	✓	✓

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.

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, by emailing

There is link to all the relevant information at [www.pah.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-information](http://www.pah.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-information)

Kind Regards

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