

## Recommendations for use of Personal Protective Equipment

### Summary of Public Health Ontario guidance for care of patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19

This resource summarizes [PHO's recommendations](#) for care of patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19.

[Recent guidance from Ontario Health](#) acknowledges that organizations and individuals may escalate to mask use for all patient encounters based on individual estimates of risk.

## Perform appropriate risk assessments

### Organizations

- Conduct an Organizational Risk Assessment and educate/train staff accordingly
- Apply a [hierarchy of hazard controls](#) (elimination and substitution, engineering and systems controls, administrative controls, and PPE)

### Individuals

- Perform a Point-of-Care risk assessment before every patient interaction

## Use personal protective equipment appropriate to level of risk

The following guidance outlines the minimum expectations for PPE. Follow your own institutional or organizational IPAC policies and procedures on PPE (if applicable).

### When providing routine care

- Use Droplet and Contact precautions
- Isolate the patient in a single room

### Contact /droplet precautions

- Gloves
- Protective eyewear
- Surgical/procedure mask
- Isolation gown

### Aerosol-generating medical procedures\*

- Endotracheal intubation, including during cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
- Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
- Open airway suctioning
- Bronchoscopy (Diagnostic or Therapeutic)
- Autopsy
- Sputum induction (Diagnostic or Therapeutic)
- Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation for acute respiratory failure (CPAP, BiPAP3-5)
- High flow oxygen therapy

### When conducting aerosol-generating procedures

- Use Airborne precautions
- Place the patient in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR)
- If AIIR is not available, isolate the patient in a single room with a closed door

### Airborne precautions

- Gloves
- Protective eyewear
- Surgical/procedure mask
- Isolation gown

\* The collection of a nasopharyngeal swab is not an aerosol-generating procedure.

\* Ontario Health's *Recommendations on the use and conservation of PPE during the COVID-19 Pandemic* recommends avoiding some of these procedures under certain circumstances. [See the full guidance for details.](#)

## Healthcare Providers and Support Staff

		Droplet & Contact Precautions	Airborne Precautions	No PPE required	Other
<b>In-Patient Healthcare Facilities</b>					
Patient's room	Providing direct care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients (including nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection)	✓			
	Aerosol-generating procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	✓	✓		
Patient transit areas	Any activity that does not involve contact with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients				Routine practices and additional precautions based on risk assessment
Triage	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	✓			PPE not required if separated by physical barrier or able to maintain 2m distance from patient
Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients			✓	
<b>Ambulatory and Outpatient Healthcare Facilities</b>					
Consultation room	Physician examination of patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	✓			
Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients			✓	
Reception/Triage	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	✓			PPE not required if separated by physical barrier or able to maintain 2m distance from patient
<b>Home Care</b>					
In patient's home	Visiting clients/patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	✓			
<b>Long Term Care Home</b>					
Any location	Providing direct care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 residents (including nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection)	✓			
Any location	Providing CPAP and/or open suctioning to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 residents	✓	✓		
Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with resident suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19			✓	

## Visitors and Environmental Service Workers

<b>All Care Settings</b>					
Patient's room	Entering the room of a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 person (including entering to clean after and between consultations)	✓			Visitors should be discouraged or limited

## Patients Suspected or Confirmed to have COVID-19

<b>In-Patient Healthcare Facilities</b>	
Triage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated</li> <li>Ask patient to maintain 2m distance or separation by a physical barrier</li> <li>Ask patient to perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>
<b>Ambulatory and Outpatient Healthcare Facilities</b>	
Triage/Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated</li> <li>Ask patient to maintain 2m distance or separation by a physical barrier</li> </ul>
Waiting room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated</li> <li>Immediately move the patient to a single patient room or separate area away from others. If this is not feasible, ensure special distance of at least 2m from patient</li> </ul>
Consultation room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated</li> <li>Ask patient to perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>