



This document provides recommendations for Continuous face mask<sup>1</sup> use and Extended use of face masks<sup>1</sup> and eye protection<sup>2</sup>.

\*Continuous face mask use: all healthcare workers who come into contact with clients during the course of their shift must wear a face mask at all times.

\*Extended use of face masks and eye protection: is the practice of wearing the same face mask and eye protection for repeated interactions with multiple clients for the maximum of one complete shift.

Location in Primary Care	Staff Type Examples	Activity	PPE Required	Comments
Consultation room/area	Direct Care Staff (RNs, NPs, Physicians, Therapists, Lab, etc.,)	Care/assessment Asymptomatic clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face Mask</li> <li>Additional PPE as per routine practices (point of care risk assessment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged or soiled. Discard mask when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li><b>Perform hand hygiene frequently</b></li> </ul>
		Care/assessment Clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face Mask</li> <li>Eye Protection</li> <li>Gown</li> <li>Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged or soiled. Discard mask when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li><b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at end of shift</li> <li><b>Gown and gloves</b> must be changed between each patient encounter</li> </ul>
		Care/assessment Clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19  Aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) required  <a href="#">AGMP list/algorithm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal checked)</li> <li>Eye Protection</li> <li>Gown</li> <li>Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGMPs performed on suspect/confirmed COVID-19 clients in a community setting should only be done if absolutely necessary</li> <li><b>Change N95 respirator</b> once AGMP is complete and settle/clearance time achieved.</li> <li><b>Unless N95 is required for further AGMP, switch to face mask and change Face mask as described above</b></li> <li><b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift</li> <li><b>Gown and gloves</b> must be changed between each patient encounter</li> <li><b>Essential staff only during AGMP-keep door closed during and after AGMP</b></li> </ul>



	Environmental service workers or Cleaning staff	Cleaning clinic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face Mask</li> <li>• Eye Protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged or soiled. Discard mask when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gown and gloves</b> must be changed between each client room cleaned</li> </ul>
Reception/Triage area	Registration, triage and screening of clients	No partition or 2 metre distancing in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face Mask</li> <li>• Eye Protection</li> <li>• Gown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged or soiled. Discard mask when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Eye Protection</b> remove/disinfect before a scheduled break or at the end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Change gown</b> when wet or soiled and before scheduled breaks and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Gloves not recommended</b></li> <li>• <b>Perform hand hygiene frequently</b></li> </ul>
	Registration, triage and screening triage of clients	Partition or 2 metre distancing in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face Mask</li> <li>• <b>Additional PPE as per point of care risk assessment (depending on duties)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Change mask IF</b> it becomes wet, damaged or soiled. Discard mask when taking a scheduled break and at end of shift</li> <li>• <b>Perform hand hygiene frequently</b></li> </ul>
Waiting room	Clients with ILI symptoms or suspected to have COVID-19	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to provide face mask to clients, if able to tolerate, as well as tissues</li> <li>• Have client perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have client maintain physical distance of at least 2 metres or place them in a private room to wait for appointment</li> </ul>



<p><b>Administrative areas</b></p>	<p><b>Administrative/office duties performed in office with door closed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No PPE required</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene frequently</li> <li>• <i>Note: comment on non-medical masks<sup>3</sup></i></li> </ul>
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**NOTE: The PPE requirements outlined in this guideline may need to be modified to reflect the differences in the physical layout and type of activity performed by staff within these settings. Any modifications to the PPE requirements must be based on a point of care risk assessment and using professional and clinical judgement.**

<sup>1</sup>**Face mask** defined as a procedure or surgical mask

- Staff must take care not to touch their face mask. If they touch or adjust their face mask they must immediately perform hand hygiene
- Staff should leave the patient care environment if they need to remove the face mask

<sup>2</sup>**Eye protection** defined as goggles or face shield (maybe disposable or reusable devices)

- Eye protection should be removed and reprocessed if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through
- Eye protection should be discarded if damaged (e.g., face shield can no longer fasten securely to the provider, if visibility is obscured and reprocessing does not restore visibility)
- Staff should take care not to touch their eye protection. If they touch or adjust their eye protection they must immediately perform hand hygiene
- Staff should leave the patient care environment if they need to remove their eye protection

<sup>3</sup>**Non-medical masks:** The use of personal non-medical masks (e.g. cloth) has not been approved for the health care setting at this time, but is currently being reviewed and further direction may be forthcoming.

**References:**

- Public Health Ontario: Updated IPAC Recommendations for PPE Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19
- WHO: Rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
- Alberta Health Services: AHS IPC Recommendations-PPE Table for COVID-19 Assessment Centres & ERs with Pre-Triage
- Vancouver Coastal Health: PPE Recommendations – Acute
- Shared Health Manitoba: Provincial Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- WHO: Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 Interim Guidance Apr 6, 2020