



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Interim Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment for Non-Medical Setting, including In-Home Service and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Providers

March 30, 2020

WHAT IS PPE?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard.

WHO SHOULD USE PPE?

PPE should be worn when the nature of the anticipated interaction indicates that **contact with blood, respiratory droplets, or body fluids** may occur.

PPE should only be worn by individuals that have been trained and observed to be competent in putting it on and taking it off appropriately. Training and competency must include at a minimum:

- When to use PPE
- What PPE is necessary (based on the activity to be performed)
- How to properly put on, use and remove PPE in a manner that prevents self-contamination
- How to properly dispose of or clean/disinfect and maintain PPE
- The limitations of PPE

WHO SHOULDN'T USE PPE?

PPE is not recommended for individuals performing routine life and work activities (e.g., conversations with others who are more than 6 feet away, going to the grocery store, pumping gas or riding a bus).

PPE may provide a false sense of security and therefore pose a risk to the user. For example, individuals wearing gloves may not perform other vital safety measures, i.e., washing your hands. **Removing PPE incorrectly can contaminate your skin, clothing, and environment with the virus.**

I AM NOT A HEALTHCARE WORKER WHO CARES FOR ILL PATIENTS, HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after encounters with other individuals.
- Wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after touching surfaces that are touched often such as doorknobs, tables, light switches and faucets.
- Identify, when possible, and avoid face to face interactions with individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, including fever, cough and sore throat
- Do not touch eyes, nose or mouth with your hands

Role	Type of PPE Needed		Exposure Reduction Strategies
	<i>Routine Practice</i>	<i>COVID-19 Suspected/Confirmed</i>	
IF YOU ARE SICK DO NOT GO TO WORK AND STAY HOME			
In-Home Service Providers:			
Child Protective Services/Adult Protective Services Social Worker	None	<p>Surgical facemask or maintain a distance of > 6 feet when screening</p> <p>Provide a surgical mask to the symptomatic person to wear during the interaction</p>	<p>Call ahead to assess if someone has symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., fever and cough)</p> <p>Defer non-urgent service OR utilize alternative care measures when feasible (telephone assessments).</p> <p>Hand sanitizer, tissue and receptacle for disposal available</p> <p>Wash hands well with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after a home visit.</p> <p>Rearrange seating to maintain a distance of > 6 feet apart.</p> <p>Avoid touching environmental surfaces (e.g. tables, doorknobs) or use tissue to touch surfaces.</p>
Behavioral Health Intellectual Developmental Disability Providers	None	<p>Surgical facemask or maintain a distance of >6 feet when screening or if task allows.</p> <p>Provide a surgical mask to the symptomatic person to wear during the interaction</p>	<p>Call ahead to assess if someone has symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., fever and cough)</p> <p>Defer non-urgent service OR utilize alternative care measures when feasible.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer, tissue and receptacle for disposal available</p> <p>Wash hands well with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after a visit.</p> <p>Rearrange seating to maintain a distance of > 6 feet apart.</p> <p>Avoid touching environmental surfaces (e.g. tables, doorknobs) or use tissue to touch surfaces..</p>

Other Service Providers:

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	Yes	<p>Routine use of surgical face masks and gloves for all patient interactions</p> <p>For care of patients with respiratory illness, suspected or known COVID-19, use gloves, gown, surgical face masks (or N95 respirators), eye protection. Personnel must be trained in use of PPE, as described above, to use it safely. Provide a surgical mask to the symptomatic person to wear during the interaction</p>	<p>Call ahead to assess if someone has symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., fever and cough)</p> <p>Turn on fan to draw air out</p> <p>Sit as far away as possible from the patient as clinical care needs allow</p> <p>Wash hands well with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p>
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