

Guidance at a Glance – PPE

These guidelines support the delivery of care in community and social care settings. This guidance reflects best practice/national guidelines.

The type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn by healthcare workers should be based on an assessment of the risk of transmission of micro-organisms (germs) to the service user, staff and the risk of contaminated clothing, skin or mucous membranes e.g. nose, mouth, eyes, by blood or body fluids, e.g. faeces (stools), urine and saliva. PPE should be stored where it is easily accessible to staff at the point of care. Wall Mounted dispensers outside of toilets and bathrooms are ideal, alternatively if PPE needs to be stored in these rooms then keep it in a locked cupboard or unit so that it is contained from risk of contamination. PPE is clinical waste and should be disposed of in the correct waste stream.

Gloves

If contact with blood and/or body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membrane, is anticipated or the service user has a known infection, you should wear single use disposable gloves that are appropriate for the task.

Good Practice

- Hands must be washed immediately after removing gloves.
- Do not wash gloved hands, washing gloves rather than changing them is not safe practice.
- Do not apply alcohol hand rub to gloves as the alcohol hand rub may affect the integrity of the glove.
- Gloves should not be kept in uniforms or work wear pockets as the gloves can easily become contaminated.



Aprons

A single use disposable apron should be worn whenever there is a risk of exposure of blood and/or body fluids, non-intact skin, mucous membranes or the service user has a known infection. Aprons should only be worn when there is a risk of soiling the front of your uniform. Aprons must be put on before an episode of contact with a service user and removed as soon as the activity is completed. Aprons should be colour coded for the task being carried out:

- Red – barrier nursing/infection risk
- Blue or white – general personal care
- Green - kitchen or food serving.



Eye Protection

Safety glasses or a visor should be worn to prevent infection where there is a risk of splashing of blood and/or body fluids to the eyes. Re-useable eye protection should be decontaminated after use.

Masks



A surgical mask should be worn to prevent infection when there is a risk of splashing of blood and/or body fluids to the nose or mouth. Masks may sometimes be required to be worn routinely, for example in an event of a pandemic.

- The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust (2018). Infection Prevention and Control. In: L. Dougherty and S. Lister (eds.) The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures, eighth edition. West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, 93-154.
- [Infection prevention and control in adult social care: acute respiratory infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/infection-prevention-and-control-in-adult-social-care-acute-respiratory-infection)