

South Yorkshire Local Authorities Covid-19 PPE position statement 13th April 2020

Across South Yorkshire we recognise that staff are feeling anxious about the potential risk to their health of carrying out their usual work activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Media stories of threats to the supply of PPE, inconsistencies of approach between staff in virtually identical work-based scenarios and changes to guidance have significantly increased that anxiety.

Whilst this is a complex and changing situation, there is enough known about the epidemiology of Covid-19 to develop some simple and clear guidelines for use of PPE by staff across our region.

The guidance below has been developed based on the following, agreed principles:

1. We will act together to ensure the safety and reassurance of all our staff and clients.
2. PPE will be supplied according to evidence of efficacy and assessment of clinical risk.
3. All efforts will be made to secure a reliable and adequate supply of suitable PPE.
4. If supplies were to be threatened, distribution would be prioritised according to clinical risk and 'mission criticality'.
5. PPE does not negate the need for social distancing and hand and respiratory hygiene.

	Category	PPE requirements
1	Staff client interaction where distance of 2m can be maintained throughout.	Close adherence to hand (i) and respiratory hygiene protocols (ii). No additional PPE required beyond what would usually be worn for any given task.
2	Staff client interaction where momentary (iii) physical contact is required or cannot maintain 2m distance.	Close adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene protocols. Surgical facemask to be worn by member of staff. Sessional (iv) use is adequate in these circumstances.
3	Prolonged/intimate (v) physical contact is required between member of staff and client.	Close adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene protocols. PPE required - Disposable gloves, disposable apron, sessional surgical facemask (include eye protection if client is coughing or sneezing). Donning and doffing according to standard protocols (vi) and disposing of clinical waste appropriately (vii).
4	Any scenario in the household of a 'shielded' (viii) person.	Close adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene protocols. PPE required - Disposable gloves and plastic apron in addition to single use (ix) surgical facemask.
Specialist	Specialist scenarios e.g. Aerosol generating procedures, hospital inpatients, home births, phlebotomy in non-compliant patients etc.	Specialist PPE requirements – beyond the scope of this guidance

NB: This summary relates to PHE's *COVID-19: infection prevention and control*, last updated 6th April 2020 (x), it is not prescriptive and allows for nuanced local variation in application. All other normal PPE rules for posts under Health and Safety still apply.

Terms/definitions/clarifications etc		
i	Hand washing protocol	Attached at appendix 1 below https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/
ii	Respiratory hygiene protocol	This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public
iii	Momentary contact	Relates to ad hoc interventions that may create proximity to bodily fluid – e.g. a driver putting a seatbelt onto a client.
iv	Sessional use	Surgical facemask can be used multiple times and need not be disposed of until wet, damaged or uncomfortable. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe#section-6
v	Intimate care	Is defined as a role which is personally supporting the client to bathe, wash, feed etc. where there may be close proximity to bodily fluids.
vi	Donning and doffing	Refers to the correct method by which PPE should be put on and taken off. Guidance at appendix 3. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GncQ_ed-9w
vii	Disposal of PPE	PPE should be bagged and disposed of in a lidded bin followed by close adherence to hand washing protocol.
viii	Shielded person	Definition at appendix 2.
ix	Single use	Refers to disposal of PPE after each client interaction.
x	PHE Covid-19 IPC	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control?utm_source=7c916e5e-b965-44d0-a304-cf38d248abba&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Appendix 1

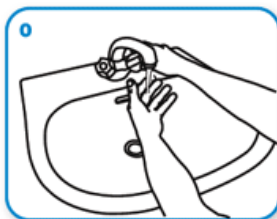
Clean hands protect against infection

Protect yourself

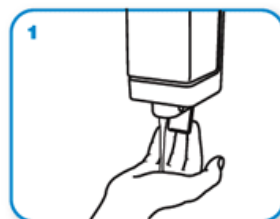
- Clean your hands regularly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly.
- Use alcohol-based handrub if you don't have immediate access to soap and water.

How do I wash my hands properly?

Washing your hands properly takes about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice, using the images below.



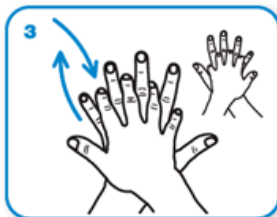
Wet hands with water



apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



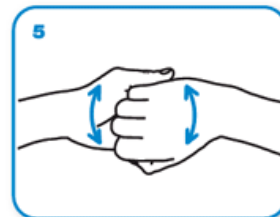
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



palm to palm with fingers interlaced



backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



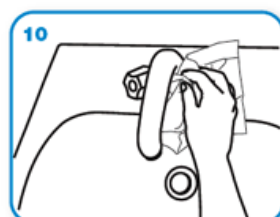
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.

Appendix 2

People falling into this extremely vulnerable group include:

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.
4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

NB: Patients should have received notification directly from the government and or their GP practice about whether they fall into this group and how to reduce their risk.

Appendix 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GncQ_ed-9w



Public Health
England

Guide to donning and doffing standard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

for health and social care settings

Donning or putting on PPE

Before putting on the PPE, perform hand hygiene. Use alcohol handrub or gel or soap and water. Make sure you are hydrated and are not wearing any jewellery, bracelets, watches or stoned rings.

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1 Put on your plastic apron, making sure it is tied securely at the back.
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2 Put on your surgical face mask, if tied, make sure securely tied at crown and nape of neck. Once it covers the nose, make sure it is extended to cover your mouth and chin.
- 


3 Put on your eye protection if there is a risk of splashing.
- 


4 Put on non-sterile nitrile gloves.
- 


5 You are now ready to enter the patient area.


Doffing or taking off PPE


Surgical masks are single session use, gloves and apron should be changed between patients.


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1 Remove gloves, grasp the outside of the cuff of the glove and peel off, holding the glove in the gloved hand, insert the finger underneath and peel off second glove.
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2 Perform hand hygiene using alcohol hand gel or rub, or soap and water.
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3 Snap or unfasten apron ties the neck and allow to fall forward.
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4 Once outside the patient room. Remove eye protection.
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5 Perform hand hygiene using alcohol hand gel or rub, or soap and water.
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6 Remove surgical mask.
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7 Now wash your hands with soap and water.

Please refer to the PHE standard PPE video in the COVID-19 guidance collection:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures

If you require the PPE for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) please visit:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-aerosol-generating-procedures