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Recommended PPE for healthcare workers by secondary care inpatient clinical setting, NHS and independent sector

Setting	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid-resistant gown	Surgical mask	Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask	Filtering face piece respirator	Eye/face protection[1]
Acute hospital inpatient and emergency departments, mental health, learning disability, autism, dental and maternity settings	Performing a single aerosol generating procedure[2] on a possible or confirmed case[3] in any setting outside a higher risk acute care area[4]	✓ single use[5]	✗	✓ single use[5]	✗	✗	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]
	Working in a higher risk acute care area[4] with possible or confirmed case(s)[3]	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✓ sessional use[6]	✗	✗	✓ sessional use[6]	✓ sessional use[6]
	Working in an inpatient, maternity, radiology area with possible or confirmed case(s)[3] – direct patient care (within 2 metres)	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✗	✗	✓ sessional use[6]	✗	✓ sessional use[6]
	Working in an inpatient area with possible or confirmed case(s)[3] (not within 2 metres)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓ sessional use[6]	✗	✓ risk assess sessional use[6,7]
	Working in an emergency department/acute assessment area with possible or confirmed case(s)[3] – direct patient care (within 2 metres)	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✗	✗	✓ sessional use[6]	✗	✓ sessional use[6]
	All individuals transferring possible or confirmed case(s)[3] (within 2 metres)	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✗	✗	✓ single or sessional use[5,6]	✗	✓ risk assess single or sessional use[5,6,7]
	Operating theatre with possible or confirmed case(s)[3] – no AGPs[2]	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✓ risk assess single use[5,7]	✗	✓ single or sessional use[5,6]	✗	✓ single or sessional use[5,6]
	Labour ward/area – 2nd/3rd stage labour vaginal delivery (no AGPs[2]) – possible or confirmed case[3]	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[2]	✗	✓ single or sessional use[5,6]	✗	✓ single or sessional use[5,6]
	Inpatient care to any individuals in the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding[8]	✓ single use[5]	✓ single use[5]	✗	✓ single use[5]	✗	✗	✗

Table 1

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.
2. The full list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is within the COVID-19 IPC guidance [note APGs are undergoing a further review at present].
3. A case is any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases/investigation-and-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection
4. Higher risk acute areas include: ICU/HDUs; ED resuscitation areas; wards with non-invasive ventilation; operating theatres; endoscopy units for upper Respiratory, ENT or upper GI endoscopy; and other clinical areas where AGPs are regularly performed.
5. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).
6. A session refers to a period of time where a healthcare worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round; providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the healthcare worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
7. Risk assessed use refers to utilising PPE when there is an anticipated/likely risk of contamination with splashes, droplets of blood or body fluids.
8. For explanation of shielding and definition of extremely vulnerable groups see guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19

Patient use of PPE: In cohort wards, communal waiting areas and during transportation, it is recommended that suspected or confirmed cases wear a surgical face mask if this can be tolerated. The aim of this is to minimise the dispersal of respiratory secretions, reduce both direct transmission risk and environmental contamination. A surgical face mask should not be worn by patients if there is potential for their clinical care to be compromised (e.g. when receiving oxygen therapy).

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