

COVID-19 Update

Date: March 24, 2020

#032420-10

To: All staff

Re: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Clarification for Persons Supported in Isolation

Action: Read and post at site.

This memo will focus on PPE specific to providing care to supported persons who are in self-isolation for any reason or have been confirmed to have COVID-19.

If there are no reports of an acute respiratory illness or COVID-19 case or close contact exposure with COVID-19, then PPE for droplet and contact precaution is NOT REQUIRED.

From the available studies, COVID-19 is a virus that is transmitted through droplets or contact meaning little pieces of liquid that comes out of people's noses and mouths if they cough, sneeze or talk.

The proper PPE for droplet and contact precautions are:

- Gown
- Medical mask
- Protective eyewear (goggles or face shield)
- Gloves



Medical Mask

COVID-19 is not an airborne virus. We do not need to use N95 respirators when caring for people with COVID-19.

Exception - CPR is considered an aerosol generating activity where N95 is an appropriate use. N95 are not required for droplet precautions outside of aerosol generating procedures.

Please use the *Self-Isolation and COVID-19 PPE Chart* for rational and appropriate use of PPE at Kerry's Place when persons supported are self-isolating or have COVID-19.

Help reduce waste of our PPE inventory by:

- Minimizing the need for PPE whenever possible
- Only using the PPE that is required for the task
- Encouraging the rational and appropriate use of PPE with your team

We must work together to ensure we have enough inventory when it is needed.

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Self-Isolation and COVID-19 PPE Chart

Location	Activity	Type of PPE for Self-Isolation and COVID-19
Offices in the group homes that persons supported do not access	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with persons supported	No PPE is required Maintain a distance of at least 2 m.
Supported persons room	Staff providing direct care like bathing, medication administration, prolonged contact	Droplet and contact precautions: Medical mask Gown Gloves Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
	Staff cleaning the room	Droplet (including Splash) and contact precautions: Medical mask Gown Heavy duty gloves (designed for cleaning with chemicals) Eye protection (if risk of splash from organic material or chemicals). Closed toe footwear with proper tread and traction
Common areas of the group home	Eating, watching tv, exercising, socializing	If the person supported will isolate in their bedroom and has access to a private washroom, then no PPE is required by staff unless the staff enters their room or washroom. If the person supported is unable to be isolated in their bedroom or does not have access to a private washroom and will be in the common areas, provide a medical mask to the person supported if it will be tolerated. Maintain distance of at least 2 m. If the person supported is unable to tolerate the mask and will be using the common areas; alert your clinical team. Staff and other people in the areas will need PPE for droplet and contact precautions: Medical mask Gown Gloves Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
Anywhere in the group home	CPR (hands only)	CPR is considered an aerosol generating activity where N95 is an appropriate use. N95 are not required for droplet precautions outside of aerosol generating procedures. N95 Respirator (should only be completed by employees with current fit-testing) Gown Gloves Eye protection (goggles or face shield) Apron