

Infection Prevention and Control Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

Healthcare Worker Education Program

Original: September 03, 2020 **REVISED:** October 26, 2020

Version 2.0





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1. OVERVIEW OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

1.1 DISEASE OVERVIEW

COVID-19 is the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, a new virus that was first recognized in December 2019. Genetic sequencing of the virus suggests that it is a betacoronavirus closely linked to the SARS virus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some can infect animals, and some can infect humans.

1.2 RESERVOIR

Although the precise animal reservoir for the virus causing COVID-19 is not yet certain, recent evidence suggests that both bats and the pangolin, a scaled, anteater-like animal consumed as food in China used in traditional medicine, may be the reservoir. A virus with a genome that is more than 99% similar to SARS-CoV-2 has recently been isolated from pangolins.

1.3 MODE OF TRANSMISSION

Human coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person through respiratory droplets, prolonged close personal contact, touching an infected area, then touching mouth, nose or eyes before washing hands.

1.4 SYMPTOMS

Reported illnesses have ranged from people being mildly sick to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- A new cough, or worsening chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- A new onset of fatigue
- A new onset of muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste
- Loss of sense of smell
- In children, purple markings on the fingers and toes

Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. This is the longest known incubation period for this type of disease.

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1.5 INCUBATION PERIOD

- The incubation period is up to 14 days.
 - Current estimates of the incubation period range from 1-14 days with median estimates of 5-6 days between infection and the onset of clinical symptoms of the disease. WHO recommends that the follow-up of contacts of confirmed cases is 14 days

1.6 PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY

Period of communicability is considered to be from 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms to 10 days after onset of symptoms. Viral shedding may occur for longer in the immunocompromised and pediatric populations.

1.7 RISK FACTORS

Severe illness can occur in otherwise healthy individuals of any age, but it predominantly occurs in adults with advanced age or underlying medical comorbidities.

Comorbidities and other conditions that have been associated with severe illness and mortality include:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Hypertension
- Chronic lung disease
- Cancer (in particular hematologic malignancies, lung cancer, and metastatic disease)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Obesity
- Smoking

1.8 TREATMENT

This is an area of rapid change. Please review Spectrum App for updated treatments.

1.9 Prevention

- a) Multiple vaccines are under investigation.
- b) Infection Prevention and Control is the single most important measure to prevent disease transmission.



SECTION 1: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- HCWs need to understand the basic principles of safe and effective PPE use:
 - 1. PPE must be donned properly before entering the patient care area.
 - 2. PPE must remain in place and be worn correctly for the duration of exposure to potentially contaminated areas. It should not be adjusted during patient care. If a breach in PPE occurs, the HCW must immediately leave the patient care area.
 - 3. Removal of PPE presents a high-risk for self-contamination if not done properly. It requires a structured and monitored process and must be done slowly and deliberately.
- PPE should be provided and donned outside the patient's room or in the anteroom. If the anteroom is used for removing soiled PPE upon exiting the patient's room, then the anteroom should not be considered a clean area and clean supplies, including PPE, should be stored outside of the anteroom. Clean and potentially contaminated areas need to be clearly marked and evident to all HCWs working in the area, with one-way traffic flow from the clean area to the patient room to the PPE removal area. PPE should be donned and doffed in separate areas.
- The HCW should have sufficient and undisturbed time to don and doff PPE correctly.
- Have a Buddy to monitor appropriate selection, donning, doffing and disposal of PPE; observe and ensure the HCW is not self-contaminating.

Gloves

The use of gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene but is an additional measure of protection. Gloves are used to reduce the transmission of microorganisms from one patient to another or from one body site to another. Gloves reduce the risk of exposure of HCWs to blood, bodily fluids, secretions and excretions, mucous membranes, draining wounds and non-intact skin and for handling items or touching surfaces visibly or potentially soiled. Gloves do not completely eliminate hand contamination, as hands can become contaminated during the wearing of gloves through glove defects or during glove removal. Therefore, hand hygiene is necessary after the removal of gloves. Gloves must fit and extend up over the cuff of the gown.

Long-sleeved Gowns and Other Apparel

Long-sleeved gowns are worn for routine practices, as indicated by a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA). This is to protect uncovered skin and clothing during procedures and patient care activities likely to produce soiling or generate splashes or sprays of blood, bodily fluids, secretions or excretions. Gowns should be cuffed and cover the front and back of the HCW from the neck to mid-thigh. The type of gown selected is based on the following:

- Anticipated degree of contact with infectious material
- Potential for blood and bodily fluid penetration of the gown (fluid repellent when heavy liquid contamination is anticipated, such as in the operating theatre and during dialysis)
- Requirement for sterility (e.g., operating theatre, central line insertion)



Eye Protection (goggles/face shield)

Eye glasses are not effective eye protection. Interactions involving activities likely to generate coughing, splashes or sprays of blood, bodily fluids, secretions or excretions, and procedures that potentially expose the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose or mouth warrant facial protection with a mask plus eye protection.

Masks: (Surgical/Procedure)

- protect patients and HCWs from asymptomatic patients/HCWs who may be shedding an infectious organism before they become symptomatic (e.g. COVID)
- protect HCWs from sprays, splashes and act as a barrier from infectious droplets
- provide a barrier when HCWs perform aseptic/sterile procedures

N95 Respirator

A respirator is used to prevent inhalation of airborne microorganisms. Respiratory protection may be necessary as a component of airborne precautions or a recommendation for performing Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) on certain patients. The use of a respirator or the need for airborne precautions is determined by a PCRA. Factors to be considered:

- the specific infectious agent
- known or suspected infection status of the patient involved
- the patient care activity to be performed
- the immune status of the HCW
- the patient's ability to perform respiratory hygiene

Equipment Supplies

- Eye Protection (Goggles or face shield)
- Mask surgical/procedure or N95 respirator if there is a risk of an AGMP
- Gloves
- Gown
- Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR)
- Cleaner/disinfectant wipes



SECTION 2: Donning and Doffing Guidelines

Pre- Donning Activities

Prior to entering isolation room, the HCW will confirm visibly that all PPE is in good condition.

- The Buddy ensures pre-donning activities have been completed
 - HCW has changed into scrubs
 - o All jewelry, watches, lanyards, ID cards, pagers and phones have been removed
 - o Hair is pulled back and secured away from face

Donning PPE HCW will:

- Clean hands with ABHR or soap and water
- Put on gown and ensure it covers from neck to knees to wrist
- Tie gown at the back of neck and waist
- If back not fully covered, use a 2nd gown. Gown #1 ties in front, and Gown #2 ties in back
- Put on surgical/procedure mask. Secure ties around head or loops around ears so that the mask stays in place
- Fits the moldable band to the bridge of nose and ensures the mask fits snugly to face and below chin.
- If PCRA indicates there is a risk of AGMP, don a N95 respirator in place of a mask:
 - o Pre-stretch both top and bottom straps before placing the respirator on your face
 - Cup the N95 respirator in your hand
 - Position the N95 respirator under your chin with the nose piece up
 Secure the elastic band around your head so the N95 respirator stays in place
 - Use both hands to mold the metal band of the N95 respirator around the bridge of your nose
 - Seal check the N95 respirator
- Put on eye protection (Goggles/Face Shield), positioning the eye protection over eyes/face and adjust to fit.
- Put on gloves and ensures the cuffs of the gloves are pulled up over the cuffs of the gown to prevent exposure.

The Buddy and HCW ensure the HCW has donned the appropriate PPE successfully and that the gown fully covers the HCWs' torso



Doffing PPE

- Buddy to be available prior to HCW removing any PPE.
- Buddy is ready with checklist and positioned in Doffing Area.
- HCW removes gloves, using glove in glove technique:

Glove in Glove Technique

- o Grasp outside edge of glove near the wrist and peel away, rolling the glove inside out
- o Hold the glove in the opposite gloved hand
- Slide 1 or 2 fingers under the wrist of the remaining glove and peel the glove off and over the first glove, making a bag for both
- Discard immediately into garbage
- HCW cleans hands with ABHR. If hands look or feel soiled, wash hands with soap and water.
- Buddy reminds HCW to keep hands away from face (Keep Hands Low and Go Slow).
- HCW begins to remove reusable or disposable gown as follows:
 - o Unfasten gown ties, taking care that sleeves don't contact your body when reaching for ties
 - o Pull gown away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only
 - o Turn gown inside out during removal
 - Place reusable gown in linen hamper
 - o Place disposable gown in garbage
- If HCW has difficulty reaching the back of his/her gown, Buddy dons a clean pair of gloves and gently assists in removing the HCWs gown. Starting at the top of gown, working from inside of gown, rolling down over HC's shoulders toward elbows. HCW should be leaning forward
- Buddy removes gloves and cleans hands with ABHR
- The HCW then slowly forms gown into a ball, touching only inside of gown, and discards in garbage
- HCW cleans hands with ABHR
- HCW dons a clean pair of gloves
- HCW will remove Goggles/Face Shield as follows:
 - Use one wipe to clean/disinfect inside of goggles/face shield and a second wipe to clean/disinfect outside
 - Face Shield do not touch front of face shield
 - Remove the face shield by tilting your head slightly forward, grabbing the rear strap and pulling it over your head, gently allowing the face shield to fall forward and discard in garbage
 - > HCW cleans hands with ABHR
 - Goggles do not touch the front of the goggles
 - > Remove reusable goggles by earpieces and cleans goggles with cleaner/ disinfectant wipe
 - HCW sets down cleaned goggles and removes gloves
 - ➤ HCW cleans hands with ABHR
- HCW removes gloves and cleans hands with ABHR
- HCW removes mask or N95 respirator **do not touch the front of the mask/respirator**
 - Bend forward slightly



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- Grasps **bottom** elastic band of respirator at the back of the head and pull this forward over head
- o Grasps the **top** elastic band of the respirator and pull this forward over head
- o Discard in garbage
- There are different styles of N95 respirators, but all styles have the same basic steps for doffing
- HCW cleans hands with ABHR

NOTE: Perform hand hygiene between steps if hands become contaminated and immediately after removing all PPE.



SECTION 3: Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

Prior to every patient interaction, HCWs have a responsibility to assess the infectious risk posed to themselves, patients, visitors and other HCWs. The PCRA is an evaluation of the variables (risk factors) related to the interaction between the HCW, the patient and the patient's environment to assess and analyze their potential for exposure to infectious agents and identify risks for transmission. A PCRA is based on:

- Judgement about the clinical situation (including the patient's clinical condition, physical, emotional and mental state)
- Up-to-date information on how the specific healthcare organization has designed and implemented engineering and administrative controls
- Availability and use of PPE. Control measures are based on the evaluation of the variables/risk factor identified.

HCWs should routinely perform PCRAs following the process outlined in the PCRA Tool frequently throughout their workday. This will ensure appropriate control measures are put in place for their safety, the safety of all patients, and others in the healthcare environment.

For example, a PCRA is performed when a HCW evaluates a patient and situation to:

- determine the priority for single rooms or for roommate selection if rooms are to be shared by patients
- determine the possibility of exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions and nonintact skin and select appropriate control measures (e.g., PPE) to prevent exposure
- apply strategies to reduce aerosol generation during AGMPs (refer to Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) During COVID-19 Pandemic)
- determine the need for additional precautions when routine practices are not sufficient to prevent exposure



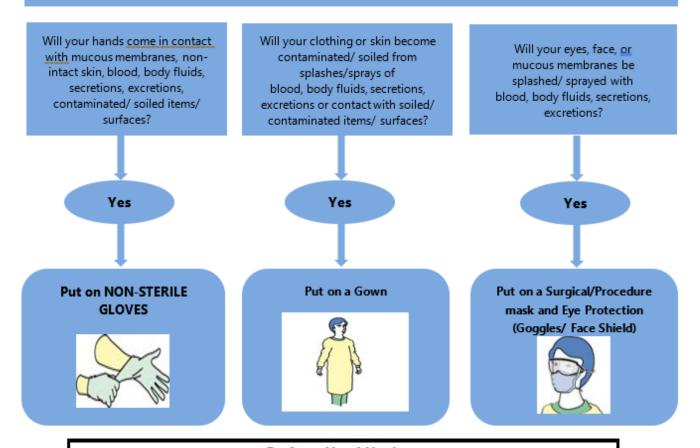
Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

HCWs perform a PCRA prior to contact with every patient, every time

- Performing a PCRA is the first step in Routine Practices. Routine Practices are to be used with all patients
 during all care to prevent and control transmission of microorganisms in all health care settings.
- A PCRA will help determine the correct PPE required to protect the HCW in their interaction with the patient
 and patient environment even if the patient has been placed on Additional Precautions as more PPE may be
 required.

Prior to EACH PATIENT INTERACTION ASSESS the risk with the: INTERACTION, TASK, PATIENT, ENVIRONMENT, CONDITIONS

 This will help you decide what, if any, PPE you need to wear to protect yourself and to prevent the spread of germs



Perform Hand Hygiene

- · Before initial patient or patient environment contact.
- Before aseptic procedure.
- After body fluid exposure risk.
- After patient or patient environment contact.

Refer to Donning and Doffing Poster for the correct order to put on and take off your PPE.



SECTION 4: Role of the Buddy and PPE Required

PPE Required for Buddy

The Buddy is to provide a minimum of direct assistance to the HCW during the donning and doffing process.

Buddy may be required to don a pair of clean gloves to assist HCW with gown removal.

The Buddy is an Active Participant

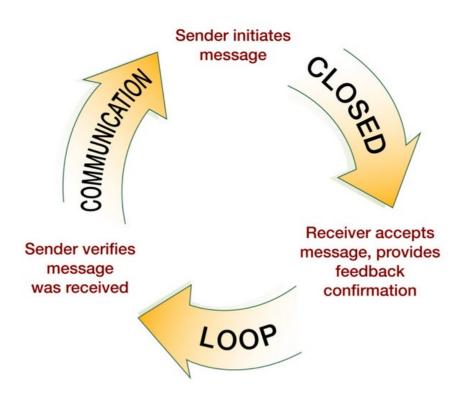
He/she turns the checklist into practice. He/she helps to ensure the safety of their colleagues. The Buddy has the responsibility of keeping the HCW calm and proceeding at a slow and deliberate pace. "Keep Your Hands Low and Go Slow"

Maintain Situational Awareness

Your physical space should be set up with safety as the top priority, but never assume all is as it should be. It is up to the Buddy to manage details that ensure the safety of the HCW.

Communication and Leadership

Safety demands active communication between the Buddy and the HCW they are working with. The Buddy leads the process and is not a casual observer. The safety of the HCW is top priority. As a donning and doffing Buddy, let the HCW know you are there to help and guide them through the process. Whenever you need to give a command, have the HCW repeat the command back, so there are no misunderstandings.





Donning: Pre-Donning Briefing

The donning process begins when the Buddy and the HCW engage one another verbally and reviews the checklist. Both the Buddy and HCW should first confirm that all PPE and other necessary supplies are available, conveniently located, correctly sized, and in good working order, free of any rips or tears. Together, you should run through the order of activities on the checklist.

Donning: The Buddy's Role in Donning

The Buddy's role in the donning process has three major components.

- 1. First and foremost, you will guide the HCW through donning according to the Buddy and HCW Guide for Donning and Doffing PPE checklist. All instructions from the checklist need to be verbally confirmed closing communications loop before they are acted on.
- 2. The Buddy ensures that he/she and the HCW are both in a clean area. You may need to assist the HCW in donning their PPE as necessary.
- 3. To ensure safety, continually scan your colleagues' PPE and the environment for possible contamination risks during donning.
- 4. The Buddy ensures the following pre-donning activities have been completed
 - HCW has changed into scrubs
 - o All jewelry, watches, lanyards, ID cards, pagers and phones have been removed
 - Hair is pulled back and secured away from face

Donning: Confirming Completion of Protocol Steps

Completion also means a thorough and final check to ensure the HCW is completely covered, and no part of the PPE is ripped, torn or otherwise vulnerable to contamination.

Donning: Error Catching and Pro-active Assistance

Acting as a Buddy and protector means you are proactive about identifying breaches of protocol and possible points of contamination.

Doffing: The Pre-doffing Briefing

Once in the doffing area, remind the HCW to wait for your instructions before beginning the doffing protocol. It is important to remind the HCW not to touch their face or any other exposed body parts during the process.

Doffing: The Buddy's Role in Doffing

The Buddy's role in the doffing process is to guide the HCW through the doffing process using the checklist provided. You should assure successful completion of each doffing step, remembering that completion means a removed item is intact and has not touched 'clean' areas and has been disposed of properly in the available garbage.

Doffing: Preparing the Doffing Area

It is part of the Buddy's role to maintain awareness of the situation and anticipate needs. The Buddy inspects the doffing area to ensure that it is appropriately maintained, and an empty garbage is available. All other equipment necessary for doffing should also be available and in good working order.





Doffing: Anticipating Risks

Your role as the Buddy goes beyond reading the checklist. You should proactively sensitize the HCW to risks at different steps of the process and ensure that they are aware of the following:

- PPE is removed from dirtiest to cleanest
- PPE is removed slowly to prevent contamination. Remind HCW to "keep hands low and go slow."
- The risk of self-contamination when removing PPE, clean hands if this occurs
- Use foot pedal when opening laundry receptacle when placing gown in bin



SECTION 5: Competency Checklist

2020 COVID-19 Donning and Doffing PPE COMPETENCY CHECKLIST Trainer and Healthcare Worker

Name:		Dept:	Title:				
0	Demonstrates Proficiency in COVID -19 PPE Donning & Doffing Procedure			LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE (LOP) Pass Fail PPE: Droplet/Contact Version: Gown, Mask, Eye Protection and Gloves PPE: Full Precautions Version Gown, N95 Respirator, Eye Protection and Gloves			
			Employee				
	Pre – Donning	and Doffiing of PPE	Date	Initial	LOP		
Is abl Is abl ID ca Doni Dem	Donning e to identify PPE required to provide care e to advise re: pre-donning activities i.e. cl rds, stethoscope, pagers & phones are rer ning onstrates Competency in Donning PPE PPE: Droplet/Contact Precautions Ver.						
				-			
	Dot	ffing PPE	Date	Employee Initial	LOP		
Doffing Demonstrates Competency in Doffing PPE PPE: Droplet/Contact Precautions Version: Gown, Mask, Eye Protection and Gloves PPE: Full Precautions Version Gown, N95 Respirator, Eye Protection and Gloves							
Frontline HCW has been advised to contact Employee Health Services at 1-833-978-2580, re: direction on follow-up and self-isolation.							
Date:		Employee Number:					
Employee Name (Please Print): Employee Signature:							
Educator / Trainer (Please Print): Educator / Trainer Signatur							

HHN-0667 (06/2020)

Respirateur N95

votre visage, étirez les deux bandes élastiques.

B Placez le respirateur N95 dans

de façon à recouvrir le nez.

E Vérifiez l'étanchéité de votre

respirateur N95.

Passez les bandes élastiques

le creux de la main.

A Avant de placer le respirateur sur

C Placez le respirateur N95 sous votre

menton en dirigeant la bande nasale

par-dessus la tête et les placer sur le

dessus de la tête et autour du cou.

D À l'aide de vos deux mains, modelez

à la forme de l'arête de votre nez.

la bande nasale du respirateur N95



SECTION 6: Donning and Doffing Signage

Putting on (Donning) Personal Protective Equipment

Infection Prevention and Control

Putting on (Donning) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)







in front. Gown #2 ties in back



D Use both hands to mold the metal

the bridge of your nose

E Seal check the N95 respirator.

band of the N95 respirator around







Prévention et contrôle des infections

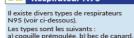
Étapes à suivre pour mettre l'équipement de protection individuelle (ÉPI)





- B Attachez la blouse à l'arrière du cou et de la taille. C Si la blouse ne recouvre pas complètement votre dos, utilisez une deuxième blouse Attachez la première blouse à
- l'avant, puis la deuxième blouse à l'arrière





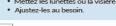


Renseignez-vous auprès du fabricant pour obtenir les consignes détaillées sur le port du masque.













Adaptation, Alberta Health Services

Horizon

Adapted from Alberta Health Services

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la blouse

HHN-0669 (06/2020)



Taking off (Doffing) Personal Protective Equipment

Infection Prevention and Control

Taking off (Doffing) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)





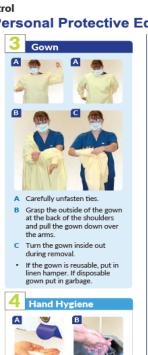
C Peel the glove off and over

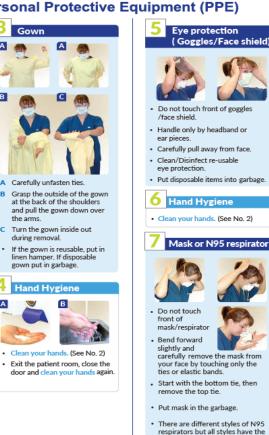
for both gloves.

the first glove, making a bag

· Put the gloves in the garbage.





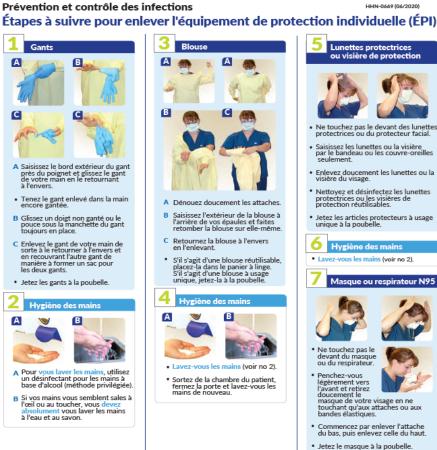




same basic steps for doffing.

Hand Hygiene

· Clean your hands. (See No. 2)







Adapted from Alberta Health Services

Adaptation, Alberta Health Services

Horizon

Lavez-vous les mains (voir no 2).



C@VID-19 Tips for Staying Safe

BEFORE WORK



- Ensure fingernails are kept clean, short and do not extend beyond the fingertips. Do not wear artificial nails (gel,acrylic, nail extensions, nail wraps or nail jewellery).
- Bring a clean uniform to work, including a spare in case one becomes soiled.
- Leave rings and jewellery at home.
 If worn, ring must be a smooth band.
- Tie back long hair.
- Ensure you are dean shaven so not to interfere with the seal of a N95 respirator.

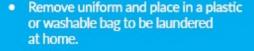
DURING WORK



- Practice proper hand hygiene.
- Clean hands using alcohol-based hand rinse and use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled or feel dirty.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Try to avoid frequently touched surfaces and remember to clean hands often.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and adhere to proper donning and doffing procedures.

- Do not use eye glasses as a substitute for eye protection (goggles or face shield).
- Developing even mild symptoms of COVID-19 while at work requires separation from others and immediately contacting Employee Health Services for further direction.
- Follow facility policy for calling in sick.

AFTER WORK





- Leave work shoes at work.
- Clean and disinfect phone, ID badge and glasses.
- Shower at work or immediately upon arrival at home.
- Upon arrival at home, place work uniform in washer, and wash following clothing labels and clean hands.

- Dry clothing using the warmest temperatures recommended on the label.
- Stay active and maintain a healthy lifestyle; keep 2 metres (6 feet) from others.
- It is critical that anyone with any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), even mild symptoms, stay home to avoid spreading illness to others. Contact Tele-Care 811 or Employee Health Services. This service is available 7 days a week.

Additional resources for employees are available on the Coronavirus Skyline page.



SECTION 7: Fitness to Work

Employee Health, in consultation with the Manager/Supervisor and the HCWs primary care physician, will assist in the determination of a HCW ability to safely perform duties associated with the care of a suspected or diagnosed patient with COVID-19.

No one should be excluded from training within the identified groups. The following factors that may require some HCWs to be excluded from providing direct care for COVID-19 patients:

- Those who have not been fitted for an N95 mask within the past two three years
- Those who cannot be fitted with the personal protective equipment, including an N95 mask
- Those who are pregnant

For those caring for patients **who have been admitted** with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the following conditions should be considered for exemption from performing Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedures:

- Respiratory conditions, i.e. Asthma, emphysema and COPD
- Other exemptions will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with Employee Health and the HCWs' physician.



SECTION 8: Workplace Health and Safety Considerations

Employee Health Nurses will act in a consulting role when dealing with workplace health and safety considerations. The PPE being used will cause increased heat stress, and wearers can expect to perspire considerably after working in this equipment after a short period of time. HCWs caring for these patients and wearing this PPE will require more break time (both in terms of frequency and duration) to allow for adequate rest and hydration.

Caring for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients while wearing the necessary PPE and diligently adhering to the PPE donning and doffing procedures requires consistent concentration and careful attention to detail. Excessive fatigue can impair concentration, which can increase the risk of contamination. Fatigue will be taken into consideration and HCW should identify when they are becoming fatigued or overheated while wearing the PPE and indicate to the observer that they will be exiting the room. The HCW is ultimately responsible for his or her own safety while in the room.

To prevent dehydration and exhaustion, it is essential that HCWs eat and drink. Following their shift, the HCW should proceed to a change room to remove their uniform and may prefer to shower prior to changing into street clothes or hospital-issued scrubs. While showering after care is not required, shower facilities should be made available to HCWs caring for COVID-19 patients.

Follow- Up after Caring for Diagnosed COVID-19

Following each shift caring for a confirmed case of COVID-19, the following will occur as required:

- Employees and physicians that have cared for a confirmed case of COIVD-19 and feel they may
 require diffusing may self refer or from the manager/designate to Employee Health. If
 requested, Employee Health will either provide defusing or assist in referral to Employee/Family
 Assistance Program (EFAP) located either through the Employee Health & Wellness Services
 page on Skyline or under quick links "EFAP Homewood Health" including the 1-800 number.
- HCWs caring for clients diagnosed with COVID-19 will be provided information about signs and symptoms and self-monitoring instructions, including directions for symptomatic employee's contacting Employee Health for expedited referral and workplace exclusion.
- Employee Health remains in contact with employees who have expedited referrals and work exclusions until the employee is given clearance to return to the workplace.



SECTION 9: Healthcare Worker Action Following Exposure

Public Health and/or Infection Prevention & Control will notify Employee Health Services of every positive case of COVID-19 that impacts any Horizon Health Facility. Using the COVID Risk Assessment Tool and after reviewing the patient chart, all HCWs in contact with the COVID-19 Positive case will be interviewed to identify exposure.

HIGH RISK EXPOSURE:

Note that the definition does not cover all potential exposure scenarios and is not intended as a substitute for an individual assessment of the risk of exposure for clinical or individual management decision-making.

Refer to the COVID Assessment of the risk of exposure of healthcare workers when providing care to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

MEDIUM RISK EXPOSURE:

Refer to the COVID Assessment of the risk of exposure of healthcare workers when providing care to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

LOW RISK EXPOSURE:

Any other contacts are considered low risk. Refer to the COVID Assessment of the risk of exposure of healthcare workers when providing care to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Employee Health Services (EHS) will:

The Employee Health Nurse, with the nurse/department manager, will develop a list of HCWs who had a contact with a confirmed case (patient/co-worker) quickly and triage them based on the exposure risk level: high (red), medium (yellow) or low (green). Refer to the COVID Assessment of the risk of exposure of healthcare workers when providing care to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

For High Risk Exposures:

- 1. The HCW <u>CANNOT</u> work during the monitoring period.
- 2. Public Health will be notified of all high-risk HCWs, and in collaboration with Employee Health, a plan for monitoring and follow-up for high-risk HCWs will be determined.
- 3. Employee Health will call all high-risk HCWs daily for 14 days from their last unprotected contact. During the initial call/interview with the HCW, a detailed explanation of self-monitoring and self-isolation will be reviewed. Each HCW will also be told that if they develop symptoms, they are to immediately call EHS for direction and swabbing. If a HCW develops any new symptoms, consult both the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and Occupational Health physician for medical direction.
- 4. Documentation of the daily interview will be done on the Daily Monitoring Tool. At the end of the 14 days from last exposure, they send the form to Public Health and scan this into the Parklane Employee Health Charting System.
- 5. At the end of the 14 days of self-isolation, Public Health and/or the MOH will be asked to clear the HCW prior to returning to return to the workplace.



For Medium Risk Exposures:

- 1. The HCW <u>CAN</u> work during the monitoring period after an assessment of the HCWs role and population served. The HCW may require an accommodation.
- 2. Employee Health will review the required use of PPE in the workplace.
- 3. The HCW must self-monitor for new respiratory symptoms or worsening of old symptoms for 14 days from the day following the last exposure and report these to Employee Health immediately.
- 4. The Employee Health nurse will contact the HCWs daily and document symptoms on the Symptom Monitoring Tool.
- 5. A nasopharyngeal swab will be performed on day five and day 10. Employee Health Nurse is responsible for referring HCWs to the COVID-19 screening clinic as a priority on day five and day 10.
- 6. The HCW is required to follow hygiene and social distancing measures at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others (see information sheet).
- 7. When not at work, the HCW is required to self-isolate at home for 14 days following exposure.
- 8. If the HCW develops symptoms:
 - i. At home, he or she notifies the Employee Health nurse
 - ii. At work, notify manager who contacts the Employee Health immediately
 - iii. Sent home from work
 - iv. The Employee Health Nurse completes the COVID-19 screening requisition
 - v. Employee Health notifies MOH and Occupational Health Physician
 - vi. Result follow-up:
 - If negative: follow-up is provided by the Employee Health nurse (SOP No: 2 Consult of Symptomatic HCW with Negative Swab);
 - If positive: follow-up is provided by Public Health in collaboration with Employee Health (SOP No: 3 Consult of Symptomatic HCW with Positive Swab).

For Low Risk Exposures:

- 1. The HCW <u>CAN</u> work during the monitoring period. Education on self-monitoring should be provided in all areas where there are COVID-19 confirmed cases and to all departments providing care or services to the area.
- 2. The HCW must self-monitor for new respiratory symptoms or worsening of old symptoms for 14 days from the day following the last exposure.

HCWs Who Develop Symptoms Management of HCW Screening:

Negative COVID-19 Result Process

All HCWs entering Horizon facilities will be screened prior to entry. The questions will be updated based on Public Health definition. If a HCW answers "yes" to any question, they will be sent home and required to call both their manager and Employee Health Services. HCWs who have two or more symptoms at home are encouraged to call Employee Health Services for an expedited referral to the COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.



Employee Health Services (EHS) will:

- 1. Call the HCW to assess symptoms. If the HCW has two or more of the symptoms, a referral will be made to the COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.
- 2. The HCW will be asked to self-isolate until the results of the swab are known.
- 3. Results of the Nasopharyngeal swab is obtained by Employee Health.
- 4. Employee Health will call HCW with **negative** results.
- 5. HCW will be able to return to work if the following three criteria are met:
 - a. Negative test result
 - b. Resolution of fever
 - c. Improved symptoms
- 6. If the HCW has an "influenza-like illness" (ILI), the Occupational Exposures Policy (HHN-HR-031) will be followed, and the HCW must remain off work for seven days from the onset of symptoms.

Positive COVID-19 Result Process

- 1. Public Health will notify the HCW of the **positive** results and then notify Manager of Employee Health and Wellness or designate who, in turn, will notify the appropriate area Employee Health and Infection Prevention & Control if required.
- 2. Employee Health will start contact tracing of HCW's who worked with the positive HCW to identify close contacts maintaining the confidentiality of the HCW. In collaboration with the Manager of the HCW, a plan will be developed to ensure continuity of service.
 - a. If a **non-patient care** area, those who are at low to medium risk will be allowed to remain at work with the following:
 - i. Daily monitoring of symptoms of those in the workplace by Employee Health
 - ii. Clear direction to HCWs of self-isolation at home and physical distancing in the workplace no leaving their department during their shift
 - iii. Identification of a separate entrance into the facility and department
 - iv. Provision of appropriate PPE
 - v. Separate washroom and lunchroom
 - vi. Food Services to provide one meal per shift
 - vii. Additional cleaning by Environmental Services Employees
 - b. If a *patient care* area in consultation with Public Health (PH) those who are identified as low risk *may* be allowed to remain at work if the following is clearly adhered to:
 - i. Daily monitoring of symptoms of those in the workplace by Employee Health
 - ii. Clear direction to HCWs of self-isolation at home and physical distancing in the workplace no leaving their department during their shift
 - iii. Identification of a separate entrance into the facility and department
 - iv. Provision of appropriate PPE
 - v. Separate washroom and lunchroom
- 3. For a **Positive** COVID-19 HCW at the end of the 14 days of self-isolation, PH will request the HCW contact EHS for a return to work plan.



4. Employee Health Services will:

Develop an individual return to work plan as described in the following:

- a. The HCW will be able to return to work if the following four criteria are met:
 - i. No fever for the last 48 hours (with no antipyretics);
 - ii. No acute symptoms for the last 24 hours (excluding residual cough that may persist);
 - iii. Negative PCR on day 14 and day 15 (24 hours apart); Employee Health will complete a COVID-19 Combined Referral and Lab Requisition and forward to the Clinic;
 - iv. Mandatory 14-day monitoring and self-isolation period completed.
- 5. Employee Health Nurse completes Assessment Form based on the criteria identified. If the HCW meets all criteria, they will be able to return to work, and the information will be documented in the HCWs' file. For HCWs who do not meet all criteria, their files will be referred to the Occupational Health Physician for further assessment.
- If unable to obtain two negative PCR's and the other criteria have been met, the Occupational
 Health Physician, in collaboration with the MOH, will develop a return to work plan, and the HCW
 would be educated on the use of PPE and self-monitoring.

Reporting a workplace infectious disease to WorkSafeNB

- 1. A report to WorkSafeNB must be completed for any HCW who tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 if there is a potential spread in the workplace. It will be the responsibility of WorkSafeNB to investigate and determine whether the disease has been spread in the workplace or in the community in collaboration with Employee Health and Infection Prevention & Control if required.
- 2. The Occupational Health Physician must complete Medical Form 8-10 after assessing a HCW who tested POSITIVE for COVID-19.
- 3. Employee Health, on behalf of the COVID-19 Positive HCW, will enter this into Parklane Incident Reporting System and in collaboration with Disability Management, complete all paperwork to maintain the privacy of the HCW.



Assessment of HCWs exposure risk while providing care to a CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE

This table is designed to support the assessment of health care workers' exposure risk while providing care to a confirmed COVID-19 case in any Horizon Health Network facility and to make recommendations concerning monitoring these workers' symptoms and withdrawing these workers from the workplace. Individual assessment of a health care worker's exposure risk must factor in the following: duration of exposure, use of a mask by the sick person (source control), and PPE items worn by the worker during the exposure.

Refer to the table below to categorize the exposure risk level.

<u>STEP 1 – CATEGORIZATION OF RISK¹ of a workplace exposure to the Covid-19 (confirmed case)</u> <u>by a HCW</u>

Scenarios around exposure <u>to</u> <u>a confirmed COVID-19 case</u> during their contagiousness period ²		Personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by the healthcare worker								
		N95 respirator, eye protection, gown and gloves	N95 respirator and eye protection	Mask, eye protection, gown and gloves	Mask and eye protection	Mask, gown and gloves	Mask	Eye protection	Gown and gloves	No PPE
Performing an aerosol- generating medical procedure (AGMP) or being present in the room while one is being performed ³		NOT SIGNIFICANT (NS)	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
Close (<2 metres) and extended (≥10	Source was not wearing a mask	NS	LOW	NS	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
minutes, cumulative) contact (NO AGMPs)	Source was wearing a mask	NS	LOW	NS	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Close (<2 metres) limited (<10 minutes,	Source was not wearing a mask	NS	NS	NS	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
cumulative) contact (NO AGMPs)	Source was wearing a mask	NS	NS	NS	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Non-close contact (over 2 metres) with a confirmed COVID-19 case, regardless of duration (NO AGMPs)		NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Adapted from Vitalite (April 16, 2020)

Public Health Management of cases and contacts associated with novel coronavirus disease April 15, 2020 UPDATED OCT. 8, 2020

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Details

Due to their close, frequent, or repeated contact with vulnerable people when providing care, a conservative approach to symptom monitoring and work restriction of HCWs is encouraged to quickly identify symptoms and thereby reduce transmission of the infection from a potentially contagious HCW to patients, other HCWs and visitors in health care settings.

<u>STEP 2 – MANAGEMENT OF RISK</u> of a workplace exposure to the COVID-19 virus (confirmed case) by a HCW jointly with NB Public Health

Exposure risk level	Monitoring of symptoms Until 14 days after last exposure	Disposition of HCW
HIGH	Daily Follow-Up by Employee Health	Self-isolation for 14 days following the last exposure
MEDIUM	Daily follow-up* by Employee Health and PCR at day five and day 10	Daily follow-up by Employee Health
LOW	Self-monitoring by the employee	Stay at Work with appropriate PPE
NOT SIGNIFICANT	Self-monitoring by the employee	Assess need for accommodation due to high risk populations

^{*}The daily follow-up* by the Employee Health is described in the SOP No 1: Employee Health Surveillance

Assessment and course of action following a workplace exposure by a health care worker who had contact with a patient who has tested for COVID-19 (source patient) and is awaiting the result.

A HCW may have been exposed to a patient who was tested for COVID-19 (suspected infection) without the worker wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).

In this case, while awaiting the patient's test result, follow this procedure:

- 1. No work restriction, the employee CAN work. This employee is not considered to be contagious.
- 2. No action is required before the result is available.
- 3. If the result is positive: refer to steps 1 and 2.

¹ When uncertain between two risk levels, it is recommended to use the higher level.

² For investigation purposes, the <u>contagiousness period of a confirmed case</u> is defined as beginning <u>48</u> <u>hours before the onset of symptoms</u> until isolation is lifted (as defined by NB Public Health).



SECTION 10: Actions Immediately Following an Unprotected Exposure to COVID-19

Potential exposure to COVID-19 (i.e. direct exposure without appropriate PPE, percutaneous injuries) must be reported immediately to the supervisor, Employee Health or designate. When this type of exposure occurs:

- Immediately implement exit procedures and safely remove PPE in a slow controlled step-bystep manner. The observer will talk the HCW through the steps and offer support.
- Once the PPE has been removed, first aid should be performed immediately. The site of a
 percutaneous injury should be thoroughly rinsed with running water, and any wound should be
 gently cleansed with soap and water. If mucous membranes are affected, they should be flushed
 with running water if contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, secretions or excretions.
- Immediately report to the supervisor and Employee Health. Medical attention should be obtained immediately.
- The HCW will be directed to immediately self-isolate. Employee Health, in collaboration, will ensure that HCWs who have a family or roommate are relocated to another facility for the duration of the isolation.
- The HCW will be placed on paid leave as per Collective Agreement. Those not covered by a
 collective agreement will receive remuneration equal to their daily wage. (CUPE Article 14.07,
 NBNU).
- Follow up medical care and support will be provided by the Infectious Diseases physician as required and notification of regional Public Health.

HCWs Who Develop Symptoms:

- If at work, immediately stop working or not report to work
- Self-isolate as per above
- Call Employee Health who will assist the HCW obtain necessary medical care
- Comply with work exclusions until they are deemed no longer infectious to others as decided by Regional Public Health and Infectious Disease specialist



SECTION 11: Buddy and Healthcare Worker Guide for Donning and Doffing PPE

Pre-Donning Activities

	uddy ensures pre-donning activities are complete
	All jewelry, watches, lanyards, ID cards, pagers and phones have been removed
	Hair is pulled back and secured away from face
DONN	IING PPE
	uddy ensures the HCW has donned the appropriate PPE successfully and that the gown
fully c	overs the HCWs torso
	HCW clean hands with ABHR or soap and water
	HCW puts on gown . The Buddy may assist with putting on and tying gown (All ties should be
	properly secured with a simple bow. You may not want to tie gown too tight as you will need
	bending room (allow for good range of motion)
	If back not fully covered, use a second gown. Gown #1 ties in front & Gown #2 ties in back
	HCW puts on a surgical/procedure mask or a N95 respirator as required per guidelines:
	Secure ties or elastic bands at crown of head and neck
	Fit flexible band to nose bridge
	Fit snug to face and below chin
	Seal check N95 respirator
	HCW puts on goggles/face Shield and adjust to fit.
	HCW puts on gloves extending over the wrists. Ensure the cuffs of the gloves are pulled up over
	the cuffs of the gown sleeve to prevent exposure.
	Buddy will verify PPE has been donned properly and provides coverage.



DOFFING PPE

The Br	uddy will observe the HCW doffing his/her PPE and provide guidance and support as ed.
-	Buddy reminds HCW to keep hands low and go slow.
gloves	g a reusable or disposable gown, gloves are to be removed separately. HCW will remove susing glove-in-glove technique as follows: Grasp outside edge of glove near the wrist and peel away, rolling the glove inside out Slide 1 or 2 fingers under the wrist of the remaining glove and peel away Discard immediately into garbage HCW cleans hands with ABHR
	Will remove reusable or disposable gown as follows: Unfasten gown ties, taking care that sleeves don't contact your body when reaching for ties Pull gown away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only · Turn gown inside out If the gown is reusable, place in linen hamper If gown is disposable discard in garbage HCW cleans hands with ABHR HCW exits room and closes door if patient on Full Precautions. If patient on Droplet/Contact Precautions door may be left open HCW cleans hands with ABHR
Face S	will remove Goggles/Face Shield as follows: Shield – do not touch front of face shield Remove the face shield by tilting your head slightly forward, grabbing the rear strap and pulling it over your head, gently allowing the face shield to fall forward and discard in garbage HCW cleans hands with ABHR
	es – do not touch the front of the goggles HCW cleans hands with ABHR and puts on clean gloves HCW removes reusable goggles by ear pieces and cleans goggles with cleaner/ disinfectant wipe HCW sets down cleaned goggles and removes gloves HCW cleans hands with ABHR
	will remove surgical/procedure mask as follows: – do not touch the front of the mask If using a surgical/procedure mask with ear loops, hook index finger around each loop behind the ears and slowly lift it out and away from face and discard. If using a surgical/procedure mask with ties, unfasten the bottom tie first and unfasten the top tie second. Lift the surgical/procedure mask slowly out and away from face Discard in garbage HCW cleans hands with ABHR



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ICW '	will remove N95 as follows: – do not touch the front of the respirator
	Bend slightly forward, grasp bottom elastic band of respirator at the back of the head and pull
	this forward over head
	Grasp the top elastic band of the respirator and pull this forward over head
	Discard in garbage
	HCW cleans hands with ABHR

NOTE: Perform hand hygiene between steps if hands become contaminated and immediately after removing all PPE.



SECTION 12: References

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