

COVID-19 & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – INTERIM GUIDANCE

WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING WHEN IN PUBLIC TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHEN SHOULD I WEAR PPE AS A NON-HEALTHCARE WORKER?

If your work requires CLOSE CONTACT with persons who have COVID-19 symptoms, wear PPE if available. CLOSE CONTACT is defined as being within 6 feet of a symptomatic person for greater than 10 minutes. Conserve PPE by wearing the same PPE for the duration of your shift and/or with multiple client encounters.

CLOSE CONTACT PRECAUTIONS:

- Wear a surgical facemask. Re-use facemask until soiled, damaged, or unable to breath through it.
- Offer a surgical facemask or cloth face covering to a person with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Wear gloves especially when touching surfaces that a symptomatic person may touch. Change gloves after every client encounter.
- Wear eye protection or a face shield that covers the sides of you eyes and disinfect after each use.
- Wear a gown if available. If unavailable, avoid physical contact and wear alternatives.
- Save N95 respirators for healthcare workers and cleaning staff who are exposed to aerosolization procedures, like intubation, or cleaning procedures in isolation or quarantine areas with high risk of splash or spray.
- Avoid touching contaminated surfaces of PPE. Wash hands immediately if you do.
- Wash hands immediately before putting on and after taking off PPE.

April 5, 2020

COVID-19 AND Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
To respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in people experiencing homelessness (PEH), our homeless service sector is filling new roles to deliver care while staying safe. Personal Protective Equipment is vital to this task but is also a scarce resource. It is critical that our homeless service partners develop practices to conserve this resource while knowing which situations call for PPE and which don't.

Prevention practices to reduce spread of COVID-19

- ❖ HAND HYGIENE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIES TO PROTECT YOUR SELF AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.
- ❖ Wear a cloth face covering when you are going out in public.
- ❖ Distribute cloth face coverings to your clients and encourage them to wear clean coverings when in public.
- ❖ Avoid touching surfaces or sharing pens/papers with others. Wear gloves if you do.



VIDEO RESOURCES:

Sequence of Putting On/Taking Off PPE:
<https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/ppe/ppeposter1322.pdf>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syh5UnC6G2k>

PPE Conservation:
<https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/conserving-ppe.html>

COVID-19 & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – INTERIM GUIDANCE

Create a “COVID-19 Zone” at your home:

- ❖ Remove your work clothing, shoes, and all work tools (like a bag or briefcase) and place near the front door in designated “COVID-19 Zone.”
- ❖ Wash your hands and disinfect your cell phone with alcohol wipes.
- ❖ Shower and change into “home” clothing.
- ❖ Launder your work clothing after each use.
- ❖ Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces in your car prior to family use.

OFFICE OF DIVERSION
AND REENTRY



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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HOW CAN I CONSERVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)?

Limit the number of people, interventions, and length of time that your team interacts with a person who may have COVID-19. Examples:

- Street outreach teams assign only one team member to engage in close contact with symptomatic PEH **per day or shift to limit PPE use.**
- Interim Housing or ERC Facilities deliver meals and medications and clean isolation areas at the same time. Assign only one staff person per shift to perform COVID-19 related tasks at facility

FACEMASKS

- **Extended Use or Reuse:** Wear the same facemask *without removing it* for repeated close-contacts with different clients. If the mask has elastic ear hooks, can reuse facemask for many encounters while removing it, from the elastic hooks, in between.
- **Storage:** First, remove gloves. Second, facemask should be removed. It is critical to ensure you *never touch the outer surface* of the facemask after use. Facemasks should be folded carefully inward against itself and stored in resealable paper bag or envelope between uses.
- **Discard:** When soiled, damaged, or hard to breath through.
- **Alternatives:** Cloth face covering, bandana, or other homemade face covering.

GOWNS

- **Extended Use:** Wear the same isolation gown when interacting with same patient or group of patients housed in the same area.
- **Discard:** When soiled.
- **Alternatives:** Consider using washable cloth isolation gowns or coveralls instead. If supplies are critically low, consider washable lab coat or patient gown or a disposable apron.

EYE PROTECTION

- **Extended Use or Reuse:** For repeated close contacts with different clients, use re-usable face shields or goggles or wear same eye protection without removing them.
- **Cleaning:** With gloves on, carefully clean the inside, then outside of the face shield with disinfectant. Remove residue with water or alcohol. Dry fully before next use.
- **Discard:** When visibly soiled or difficult to see through.
- **Alternates:** Safety glasses.

PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

N95: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>