

Adult Social Care Staff: When is PPE needed?



This guidance is for Adult Social Care staff, working in people’s homes or a residential setting.

Public Health England have announced that the UK is currently in sustained community transmission of Covid-19. This guidance outlines when PPE should be worn during this period.

When PPE is required, as set out in the below table, it should be worn with all clients, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. Any change in guidance will be clearly communicated.

	Personal care and direct contact e.g any activity in which you are touching clients <u>OR</u> being within 2m of a client who is coughing	Activities which bring you within 2 metres of clients e.g medication rounds or delivering meals	Working in communal areas where you might be within 2m e.g. in dining rooms, lounges	Working with clients who are shielding e.g going into someone’s home or room who is in the extremely vulnerable shielding group
 Disposable plastic apron/gloves	✔	✘	✘	✔
 Which type of mask?	✔ Fluid resistant surgical mask (FFP3 masks should be worn if delivering AGP and must be fit-tested before use)	✔ Standard surgical mask <u>OR</u> Fluid-resistant Surgical Mask (if risk of <u>prolonged</u> contact with a resident who is coughing)		
 Eye protection	Risk assess for risk of contamination with splashes, droplets or blood or body fluids		✘	✘

Remember to:

- ✔ Get training on how to use PPE safely (videos are available)
- ✔ Speak with your manager if you are unsure what to wear or how to use PPE
- ✔ Check whether your PPE is for single use and what items can be worn for longer periods
- ✔ Dispose of PPE safely and follow hand hygiene
- ✔ Put bags containing used PPE aside for 72 hours, before disposal in general waste
- ✔ **Shielding groups:** see www.gov.uk/coronavirus for a full list of conditions