

# ADS Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment

Updated 10/1/2020

For current COVID-19 information in Seattle-King County, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/COVID](http://www.kingcounty.gov/COVID).

## Priority for Equipment

Medicaid LTSS providers, Home Care Agencies, and Individual Providers are considered high priority (Tier 1) for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). PPE availability will be an ongoing issue due to impacts of a possible second wave of the COVID-19 virus, as well as flu season impacts. High priority status does not guarantee fulfillment; some orders may be partially filled due to limited stock.

Factors considered in deciding prioritization tiers for PPE distribution include degree of contact between staff and patients and the ability to implement Centers for Health Care Strategies (CDC), WA State Department of Health (DOH) and King County Public Health controls and physical distancing recommendations and directives.

Regardless of PPE, staff should use Standard Precautions. In addition to Standard Precautions, staff should use Transmission-based Precautions when patients have diseases that can spread through contact, droplet, or airborne routes (e.g., skin contact, sneezing, coughing).

## General Directions

Staff and caregivers who will be doing home visits should complete training and education about COVID-19, including how to put on and remove PPE (see links below). A standard PPE kit should include face mask and gloves, and optionally, gown and face shields.

- Donning (putting on PPE) [YouTube.com/watch?v=H4jQUBAlBrI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4jQUBAlBrI)
- Doffing (taking off PPE) [YouTube.com/watch?v=PQxOc13DxvQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQxOc13DxvQ)

All staff/volunteers/caregivers should follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) unless otherwise directed by WA DOH or Seattle King County Public Health.

**N95 and KN95 respirator masks** are for single use and involve a comprehensive fitting process at a medical clinic. Per Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, **N95 respirators** are required in the situations below.

- In close quarters with a non-COVID-19 symptom status e.g. inside a room with 10 or more people where at least 6-foot distance is not maintained , and includes job tasks



requiring sustained close-together (less than 3 feet apart) work for more than 10 minutes in an hour multiple times a day.

- Working with a probable or known COVID-19 source or direct human mouth, nose, and eye interactions and face proximity (e.g. eye exams, visual examination of the oral and nasal cavities, conducting mouth and nasal sampling).
- Commuting in vehicles together with less than 3 feet distance for more than 10 minutes in one hour with someone that is probable or has known COVID-19 is high risk.
- All employees, including nursing staff must consult with a program manager for any N95 respirator fitting needs. **This consultation must occur during the pre-visit discussion to assure appropriate safety and equipment needs are in place.**
- More information available from the [Dept. of Labor & Industry](#).

## Home Visit Practices

- Check for any change in health status before entering the home. If anyone in the household is reporting change in symptoms, consult with a supervisor again before entering the home.
- Always practice distancing and limit time in the residence. Use the screening tool with clients and households for symptoms of COVID and consult with your supervisor before scheduling a home visit.
- Hand hygiene should be performed before putting on and after removing PPE using alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol.
- When arranging the home visit, inform anyone living in the home that unless they need to answer the door or will be assisting with the assessment they should move to a different room unless this is not possible. If they need to stay in the same room, ask them to keep at least a 6-foot distance.
- Ask client, family, or caregiver to provide an outside trash can, if available. If a can is not available, let the client, family, or caregiver know that upon removing the PPE, it will be left double bagged and can be placed in the garbage.
- PPE should be put on outside of the home, if possible.
- If PPE cannot be put on outside the home, at a minimum face protection should be placed before entering the home. If a patient reports coughing and sneezing, a disposable face shield can be used in addition to the face mask.
- When entering the home, put on a gown and gloves (gowns to be worn if close contact with bodily fluids and contact with secretions is likely). If for some reason if a gown is not available, a large trash bag may be used in place of gowns, and **booties** should be placed over shoes.
- PPE should be removed outside of the home and discarded in an external trash can before departing location. If an external trash can is not available, double bag the PPE and ask the

client, family, or caregiver to place into the garbage. **PPE should not be taken from the client's home in a personal or agency vehicle.**

- If gown and gloves must be removed in the home, keep a 6-foot distance. Remove gown, gloves, and booties and exit the home. Once outside the home, perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol, remove face protection and discard PPE by placing in external trash can before departing location. Perform hand hygiene again.

## **Additional Guidance**

- [Governor Guidelines for Home Care Workers](#)
- [Sequence for Putting on Taking off PPE](#)
- [How to select, wear, and clean your mask](#)
- [Face covering options for deaf, hard of hearing and blind clients](#)

### **Face coverings should not be used for the following:**

- Anyone with a disability that makes it hard for them to wear or remove a face covering.
- Anyone who is deaf and moves their face and mouth to communicate.
- Anyone who has been advised by a medical professional to not wear a face covering because of personal health issues.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or unable to remove the face covering without help.
- Be mindful when wearing this product if you have lung disease, like emphysema, or chronic heart disease. Stop using this product if you notice difficulty breathing while wearing it.

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Guidance was compiled from the following sources and intended to support aging network providers:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [WA State Department of Health](#)
- [Public Health Seattle-King County](#)

Please note that information changes frequently and consult the above sources for the most current information.