Australian Government
Department of Health

COVIDSAFE

GUIDE TO PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR DISABILITY CARE PROVIDERS

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

31/07/2020

If you are confirmed or suspected of having coronavirus (COVID-19), you must isolate at home. You must not provide care to people with disability.

To prevent the spread of coronavirus it is important to always practise good hygiene. You should:

- Stay home if you are sick; if you have cold or flu-like symptoms get tested.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitisers.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow and then wash your hands.
- Stay at least 1.5 metres away from others when not providing direct or personal care.

When providing support to a confirmed or suspected case:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser before you put on PPE.
- Put on PPE in this order before you enter the room:
    1. gown or apron
    2. surgical mask
    3. eye protection
    4. gloves
- Full PPE must be worn when providing direct or personal care and where contact with droplets or bodily fluids may occur (e.g. when providing support in the client's room).

PPE is removed in the room in this order:

1. gloves – then clean hands
2. gown – then clean hands

Leave the room and then remove:

1. eye protection (if used) - then clean hands
2. mask - then clean hands

- Wash your hands immediately after removing all PPE.
- Use PPE once and safely dispose of used PPE (except reusable eye protection).
- Clean any reusable eye wear immediately after use.

Alert: Disability support workers in Victoria are required to wear a single use surgical mask when at work at all times. Some disability support workers in NSW have been advised to wear masks when they are providing support or care.

PPE use when providing care to people with disability

Scenario		Hand hygiene	Surgical mask	Gloves	Eye protection	Fluid resistant gown or plastic apron
The client is well and has not had suspected exposure to coronavirus		✓	See local advice*	+/-	✗	+/-
The client has symptoms of coronavirus or a confirmed case of coronavirus **or**	Non-personal care	✓	✓	✓	+/-	+/-
the client is well but in quarantine due to recent movements or potential exposure	Personal care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

+/- indicates that PPE should be worn if contact with body fluids from the client may occur.
*Surgical masks are required in some locations. Consult your state or territory government advice.

Personal care refers to hands on care, or care provided within 1.5 m of the client, or in the same room as the client. Non-personal care refers to forms of care or support where physical distancing can be maintained (e.g. cleaning). P2/N95 respirators need only be worn during aerosol generating procedures.

Access to PPE

NDIS providers and self-managing participants who can no longer access PPE supplies through usual means (the private market) can contact the National Medical Stockpile by emailing **NDISCOVIDPPE@health.gov.au**.

More information on access to PPE for NDIS providers can be found at **www.ndiscommission.gov.au/document/2006**

Non-NDIS providers who can no longer access PPE through usual means should seek advice from the state or territory where they operate.