

Point of Care Risk Assessment: Worker PPE Selection Guide

All workers must perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment (POCRA) prior to interacting with patients to determine what personal protective equipment (PPE) is required. Below is a guide on the PPE that is available to protect workers from potential exposures. Patient and situation specific risk factors must be taken into account when performing your POCRA.

As per Directive #5, when Regulated Health Care Workers are providing care and believe based on their POCRA and professional/clinical judgment that a respirator is required for a quarantined, suspect, or COVID-19 positive patient, they may elect to wear a respirator for that care and must inform other non-regulated workers who are involved in the provision of that care so that they too can wear a respirator. For all other patients, a POCRA should similarly be performed to determine if there are factors that would indicate the need to wear a higher level of PPE (e.g. respiratory protection, gloves, gowns, eye protection).

Hazard	PPE required:	What type? Note: images of PPE shown below are examples of appropriate products. Current products may vary based on hospital supplies.	
Potential exposure of hands to blood/bodily fluids, chemicals, hazardous medications, cleaning solutions, OR infectious agents that require contact/droplet precautions	Gloves		<p>Vinyl gloves- worn for most tasks requiring gloves including most pharmaceuticals and common cleaning disinfectants including equipment wipes, Oxivir, and Percept.</p> <p>Nitrile gloves- worn where large amounts of blood/bodily fluids are anticipated (e.g. ED, ICU), for contact with bodily fluids of those on Hazardous /Cytotoxic precautions, for extended use of certain chemicals, and for handling of cytotoxic precautions (i.e. hazardous drugs).</p> <p>Specialty gloves for sterile procedures, and pharmaceutical preparations if required.</p>
Potential exposure to uniform or skin by blood or body fluids, OR to infectious agents that require contact/droplet precautions	Gown		<p>Gowns: Most gowns used at KHSC are Level 2 Gowns that are laundered. Some stock of disposable gowns are available when required (e.g. arrest carts, outbreaks, etc.). To be worn for Routine Practices, Contact or Contact/Droplet Precautions, and hazardous drugs/ precautions.</p>
Source control and potential exposure to mucous membranes (mouth, nose, eyes) by respiratory droplets	Eye Protection		<p>Eye protection is still required for staff who are not fully vaccinated for all patient interactions. Where required, staff may wear safety glasses or a face shield but WHEN A RESPIRATOR IS WORN, A FACE SHIELD, NOT SAFETY GLASSES, MUST BE WORN.</p>
	Procedure (Level 2 or 3) Mask		<p>All clinical areas require procedure/level 2 or 3 masks for source control, contact/droplet precautions, and routine practices for potential exposure of mucous membranes to blood or body fluids.</p>

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	Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required		Additional Considerations
	Routine Patient Care and Cleaning of Patient Room	AGMPs	Health Care Workers may need to wear a higher level of respiratory protection, or additional PPE based on their POCRA
For Patients who are Quarantine, Suspect, or Confirmed COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 2 or 3 Procedure Mask <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Glasses Or Face Shield <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N95/P100 Respirator required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face Shield <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloves 	<p>Use your professional and clinical judgment to determine if a Respirator, instead of a level 2 or 3 Procedure Mask, is required for the routine care of a quarantined, suspect, or confirmed positive COVID-19 patient, or for cleaning their room.</p> <p>Factors to consider in determining whether a higher level of respiratory PPE is indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected proximity or duration of exposure to the patient/patient environment • Nature of the task (e.g. is there increased risk of exposure to short range aerosols?) • Patient's ability to wear a Procedure Mask • Symptoms the patient is exhibiting (e.g. coughing) • Possibility of this being the Delta variant • Likelihood of emergent AGMPs • Room layout and ventilation
All other Patients under Routine Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 2 or 3 Procedure Mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 2 or 3 Procedure Mask <p>* A Respirator is required for Diagnostic Bronchoscopy and Sputum Inductions.</p>	<p>Use your professional and clinical judgment to determine if a Respirator, instead of a level 2 or 3 Procedure Mask, is required for routine care, cleaning of room, or for AGMPs. Consider whether or not Safety Glasses / Face Shield, Gown, and/or Gloves are also required using the guidance on page 1. Refer to Routine Practices Policy # 2-10.</p>

*Note: **Patients on Additional Precautions** will have signage posted with additional PPE requirements but staff must complete a POCRA as well.

Suspect, Confirmed, and COVID-19 Quarantine Patients:

- Patients are required to wear a Procedure Mask (if tolerated) when a worker is in a patient's room, in order to further reduce the worker's risk of exposure
- Remove Mask or Respirator, Gown, and Gloves upon leaving patient room unless you are clustering care in which case Mask or Respirator, and eyewear can remain on; you do need to change your Gown/Gloves between patients.
- Safety Glasses, Face Shields, and Reusable Respirators must be cleaned once removed and kept for re-use; Procedure/Level 2 and 3 masks & N95 Respirators should be discarded once they are removed.