

Review of national and international guidance on infection prevention and control measures for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) for COVID-19 (last updated 4 May 2020)

This table outlines recommendations on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) from national and international guidance from key organisations and will be updated weekly during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also provides rationale if differences with the official UK COVID-19 guidance for infection prevention control in healthcare settings are observed.

The UK COVID-19 guidance was produced jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland), Health Protection Scotland and Public Health England and is consistent with the current infection prevention and control advice and guidance that has been issued to and used by NHS Scotland to manage the ongoing response to COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance#guidance-for-health-professionals>

The scientific evidence base to determine if the infection prevention and control measures applied in Scotland are suitable for the prevention and management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings is updated in real-time and can be found at: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/rapid-review-of-the-literature-assessing-the-infection-prevention-and-control-measures-for-the-prevention-and-management-of-covid-19-in-healthcare-settings/>

In the 'Comparison with UK COVID-19 guidance' column the following coloured text is used as below:

Green: "In line with UK COVID-19 guidance"

Orange: "Differs from/or not addressed in UK COVID-19 guidance"

Guidance ID	Guidance on PPE	Guidance on AGP	Comparison with UK COVID-19 guidance	Comments
<p>Infection prevention and control and preparedness for COVID-19 in healthcare settings- Second update. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.</p> <p>Second update – 31 March 2020</p> <p>https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Infection-prevention-control-for-the-care-of-patients-with-2019-nCoV-healthcare-settings_update-31-March-2020.pdf</p> <p>Last accessed on 4 May 2020.</p>	<p>PPE clinical assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Healthcare workers performing the first assessment without direct contact: the patient should wear a surgical mask if available and keep a distance of at least one metre.” - A physical barrier (glass or a plastic teller window) is recommended to avoid direct contact and keep a distance (then PPE is not necessary). - Collecting diagnostic respiratory samples (e.g. nasopharyngeal swab): “gloves, eye protection, a gown and a surgical mask or, if available, an FFP”. - “For drive-through or outdoor testing facilities, the use of a surgical mask should be sufficient.” <p>Patient transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “A surgical mask or, if available, an FFP in addition to gloves, eye protection (visor or goggles) and gown.” - If no physical separation between front and back of ambulance: surgical mask <p>PPE in hospital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a surgical mask or, if available an FFP2 respirator tested for fitting, eye protection (i.e. visor or 	<p>“These procedures include: endotracheal intubation, bronchoscopy, open suctioning, administration of nebulised treatment, manual ventilation before intubation, physical prone positioning of the patient, disconnecting the patient from the ventilator, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, tracheostomy, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.”</p>	<p>PPE clinical assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following recommendations in UK COVID-19 guidance, a first risk assessment should be performed at 2 metres social distance, if possible, instead of the 1m recommended in ECDC guidance. - Patients should use surgical face mask, if this can be tolerated. - A physical barrier is recommended which is not a measure advised in UK COVID-19 guidance. - Collection of diagnostic respiratory samples is similar as to UK COVID-19 guidance, however PHE advises plastic aprons as opposed to gown. - Drive through testing is not specifically mentioned in UK COVID-19 guidance. <p>Patient transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECDC suggests FFP, if available, as well as a gown. Table 3 in the UK COVID-19 guidance differentiates the setting; only for ambulance staff performing AGPs a FFP 	<p>Inconsistency with UK COVID-19 guidance.</p> <p>Evidence based recommendation: Following an assessment of the scientific evidence base on IPC measures in response to COVID-19, as published on HPS website, droplet precautions should be implemented when in close contact within 2 metres.</p> <p>Either a disposable plastic apron or a fluid-resistant gown can be worn, with the exception being when performing AGPs outside high risk acute care areas, when a gown must be worn.</p> <p>Valved, non-shrouded FFP3 respirators are not considered to be fluid resistant and therefore should be worn with a full face shield if blood or body fluid splashing is anticipated.</p> <p>The extant scientific literature regarding AGPs in the healthcare environment is reviewed to form evidence based recommendations for practice. This evidence review will continue to be updated.</p>