

- be worn once and then discarded in line with country-specific guidance or policy (hand hygiene must always be performed after disposal)

6.5.6 Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)/FFP3 (filtering face piece) or powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) hood

A respirator with an assigned protection factor (APF) 20, that is, an FFP3 respirator (or equivalent), must be worn by staff when:

- caring for patients with a suspected or confirmed infection spread by the airborne route (during the infectious period)
- when performing AGPs on a patient with a suspected or confirmed infection spread by the droplet or airborne route

Where a risk assessment indicates it, RPE should be available to all relevant staff. The risk assessment should include evaluation of the ventilation in the area, operational capacity, and prevalence of infection/new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern in the local area. The hierarchy of controls can be used to inform the risk assessment. Staff should be provided with training on correct use.

An FFP3 respirator or powered respirator hood must never be worn by an infectious patient.

Respirators can be single use or sessional use (disposable or reusable).

All tight fitting RPE, that is, FFP3 respirators must:

- be fluid-resistant
- be fit tested on all health and care staff who may be required to wear a respirator to ensure an adequate seal/fit according to the manufacturer's guidance*
- be fit checked (according to the manufacturer's guidance) every time a respirator is donned to ensure an adequate seal has been achieved