

COVID-19 Response Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Framework: Interim Guidance for Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Mental Health and Substance Use Facilities

Background

The following guidance is being provided to augment the KYI memo March 26, 2020 *Personal Protective Equipment in Operated and Contracted Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, and Mental Health and Substance Use Facilities*.

To protect staff and physicians against COVID-19 and preserve PPE supplies, the Ministry of Health now requires that all physicians, care staff and contracted staff working in resident care units must wear a surgical/procedure mask and eye protection (i.e. face-shield, goggles or safety glasses). In addition, gloves and gowns must be worn when providing care to any resident on Droplet Precautions or as indicated per routine practices.

This directive is applicable to but is not limited to physicians, healthcare aides, nursing staff, housekeeping staff, allied health staff, and any other staff that will be working or accessing resident care units within the facility. Generally, staff or contracted workers who will not be entering resident care units are exempt (e.g. kitchen staff, and administration staff).

Resident care units: includes residents' living spaces on the same campus, where staff or providers would interact with the residents in the course of their work (resident rooms, nursing station, dining areas, resident lounges, recreational spaces, rehab spaces, corridors, hallways, resident outdoor patios)

Reference: The framework below has been adapted from BC Ministry of Health and BCCDC COVID-19: *Emergency prioritization in a pandemic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Framework* March 25, 2020. The framework has been developed to assist LTC/AL/MHSU facilities in meeting the above requirements of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMPORTANT: It is important to be meticulous when wearing the PPE as described below, including the mask and eye protection; **do not** dangle the mask and eye protection around your neck or other areas, as you will contaminate yourself.

Please note: This PPE framework is being provided as interim-guidance for a period of two months only.

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Type of Healthcare Worker/Personnel	Location	Type of PPE	Putting on PPE	Taking off PPE
Physicians Nurses Healthcare Aides/Assistants	Resident care units	Surgical/procedure mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on surgical/procedure mask at beginning of shift ▪ Put on a new mask after coffee and lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Change mask if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through ▪ Wear continuously as much as possible ▪ Avoid touching the mask ▪ Immediately clean hands if mask is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove surgical/procedure mask when it becomes damp/damaged/visibly soiled, difficult to breathe through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Remove and dispose of surgical/procedure mask in regular garbage outside of the resident rooms or care unit ▪ Clean hands after removing mask
		Eye protection (e.g. goggles, face-shield, or safety glasses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on eye protection at beginning of shift ▪ Put on cleaned eye protection after coffee, lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Clean eye protection if it becomes damp, damaged, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove and clean eye protection when it becomes damp, visibly soiled, difficult to see through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Clean hands after touching or removing eye protection

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			visibly soiled or difficult to see through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear continuously as much as possible ▪ Avoid touching the eye protection ▪ Immediately clean hands if eye protection is adjusted or touched during shift 	
		Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gloves when providing care for residents on Droplet Precautions or as indicated by routine practices (e.g. touching mucous membranes, contact with blood and body fluids) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gloves and clean hands between each resident encounter and when leaving the resident room/bed-space
		Gowns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear a gown when providing care for residents on Droplet Precautions or as indicated by routine practices when soiling of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gown and clean hands between each resident encounter and when leaving resident room/bed space

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Type of Healthcare Worker/Personnel	Location	Type of PPE	Putting on PPE	Taking off PPE
			uniform/clothing is anticipated	
Housekeeping Staff	Resident care units	Surgical/procedure mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on surgical/procedure mask at beginning of shift ▪ Put on a new mask after coffee and lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Change mask if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through ▪ It is not necessary to change mask when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the mask ▪ Immediately clean hands if mask is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove surgical/procedure mask when it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled, difficult to breathe through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Remove mask outside resident rooms or care unit ▪ Clean hands after mask removal ▪ Put on a new mask when returning to the unit
		Eye protection (e.g. goggles, face-shield, or safety glasses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on eye protection at beginning of shift ▪ Put on cleaned eye protection after coffee, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove and clean eye protection when it becomes damp, visibly soiled, difficult to

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			<p>lunch breaks and return to the unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean eye protection if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled or difficult to see through ▪ It is not necessary to change eye protection when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the eye protection ▪ Immediately clean hands if eye protection is adjusted or touched during shift 	<p>see through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean hands after touching or removing eye protection
		Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gloves when indicated by routine practices and when going into rooms with residents on Droplet Precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gloves and clean hands between bed-spaces, after leaving resident room and after completion of tasks requiring gloves
		Gown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gowns when indicated by routine practices and when going 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gown and clean hands after cleaning completed in resident room/bed spaces and

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Type of Healthcare Worker/Personnel	Location	Type of PPE	Putting on PPE	Taking off PPE
			into rooms with residents on Droplet Precautions	after completion of tasks requiring gowns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean hands after gown removal
Pharmacy Rehab Therapist Recreational Therapist Lab Phlebotomist	Resident care units	Surgical/procedure mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on surgical/procedure mask when on resident unit ▪ Put on a new mask after coffee and lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Change mask if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through ▪ It is not necessary to change mask when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the mask ▪ Immediately clean hands if mask is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove surgical/procedure mask when it becomes damp/damaged/visibly soiled, difficult to breathe through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Remove and dispose of surgical/procedure mask in regular garbage outside of the resident rooms or care unit ▪ Clean hands after removing mask
		Eye protection (e.g. goggles, face-)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on eye protection when on resident unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove and clean eye protection when it becomes

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		shield, or safety glasses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on cleaned eye protection after coffee, lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Clean eye protection if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled or difficult to see through ▪ It is not necessary to change eye protection when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the eye protection ▪ Immediately clean hands if eye protection is adjusted or touched during shift 	<p>damp, visibly soiled, difficult to see through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean hands after touching or removing eye protection
		Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gloves when going into a resident room/bed space on Droplet Precautions or when indicated by routine practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gloves and clean hands after leaving resident room/bed space

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		Gown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gowns before going into a resident room/bed space on Droplet Precautions or when indicated by routine practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gowns and clean hands after leaving resident room/bed space
Food and Nutrition Delivery Staff	Resident care units	Surgical/procedure mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on surgical/procedure mask when on resident unit ▪ Put on a new mask after coffee and lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Change mask if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through ▪ It is not necessary to change mask when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the mask ▪ Immediately clean hands if mask is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove surgical/procedure mask when it becomes damp/damaged/visibly soiled, difficult to breathe through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Remove and dispose of surgical/procedure mask in regular garbage outside of the resident rooms or care unit ▪ Clean hands after removing mask

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		Eye protection (e.g. goggles, face-shield, or safety glasses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on eye protection when on resident unit ▪ Put on cleaned eye protection after coffee, lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Clean eye protection if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled or difficult to see through ▪ It is not necessary to change eye protection when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the eye protection ▪ Immediately clean hands if eye protection is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove and clean eye protection when it becomes damp, visibly soiled, difficult to see through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Clean hands after touching or removing eye protection
		Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gloves when indicated by routine and safe food practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean hands after glove removal and at completion of tasks

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Facilities Maintenance Staff	Resident care units	Surgical/procedure mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on surgical/procedure mask when on resident unit ▪ Put on a new mask after coffee and lunch breaks and return to the unit ▪ Change mask if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through ▪ It is not necessary to change mask when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the mask ▪ Immediately clean hands if mask is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove surgical/procedure mask when it becomes damp/damaged/visibly soiled, difficult to breathe through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift ▪ Remove and dispose of surgical/procedure mask in regular garbage outside of the resident rooms or care unit ▪ Clean hands after removing mask
		Eye protection (e.g. goggles, face-shield, or safety glasses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put on eye protection when on resident unit ▪ Put on cleaned eye protection after coffee, lunch breaks and return to the unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove and clean eye protection when it becomes damp, visibly soiled, difficult to see through, before going for breaks or at the end of shift

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Type of Healthcare Worker/Personnel	Location	Type of PPE	Putting on PPE	Taking off PPE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean eye protection if it becomes damp, damaged, visibly soiled or difficult to see through ▪ It is not necessary to change eye protection when going from room to room or from unit to unit ▪ Avoid touching the eye protection ▪ Immediately clean hands if eye protection is adjusted or touched during shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean hands after touching or removing eye protection
		Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gloves when going into a resident room/bed space on Droplet Precautions or when indicated by routine practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gloves and clean hands after leaving resident room/bed space
		Gown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear gown when going into a resident room/bed space on Droplet Precautions worn or when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove gowns and clean hands when leaving resident room

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			indicated by routine practices	
Kitchen Staff (that will not be entering resident units)	Kitchen		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear routine personal protective equipment as per normal safe food handling practices ▪ Maintain physical/social distancing and hand hygiene practices 	
Administrative Staff	Administrative areas/offices where there are no residents	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PPE is not necessary in areas where there are no residents ▪ Maintain physical/social distancing and hand hygiene practices 	