

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 based on Patient Risk Category/Pathway

This guidance applies to all staff working in clinical areas, including support staff and is based on PHE “COVID-19: Guidance for maintaining services within health and care settings Infection prevention and control recommendations” 21/01/2021

High risk patients	Medium risk patients	Low risk patients
<p>Untriaged individuals present for assessment or treatment (symptoms unknown).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 PCR positive individuals are cared for.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Symptomatic or suspected COVID-19 individuals including those with a history of contact with a COVID-19 case, who have been triaged/clinically assessed and are waiting test results.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Symptomatic individuals decline testing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Follow High Risk Pathway</p>	<p>Triaged/clinically assessed individuals are asymptomatic and are waiting a SARS-CoV-2 test result.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Triaged/clinically assessed individuals are asymptomatic with COVID-19 contact/exposure identified.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Testing is not required or feasible on asymptomatic individuals and infectious status is unknown.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Asymptomatic individuals decline testing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Follow Medium Risk Pathway</p>	<p>Triaged/clinically assessed individuals with no symptoms or known recent COVID-19 contact/exposure.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Have a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test within 72 hours of treatment and, for planned admissions, have self-isolated for the required period or from the test date.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Immunocompetent individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 (15 to 90 days from positive test/onset of symptoms) and have had no new COVID-19 symptoms or recent COVID-19 contact/exposure*</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Patients or individuals are part of a regular formal NHS testing plan and remain negative and asymptomatic.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Follow Low Risk Pathway</p> <p>*advice should be sought from an infection specialist (infectious disease/virologist/microbiologist) for severely immunosuppressed individuals who continue to test positive.</p>
<p>CLEAN HANDS USING SOAP & WATER OR ALCOHOL HAND SANITISER FOLLOWING THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION 5 MOMENTS FOR HAND HYGIENE</p>		

Link to PHE guidance:

[COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90222/covid-19-guidance-for-maintaining-services-within-health-and-care-settings-infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations-21-01-2021.pdf)

Personal protective equipment during COVID19 pandemic						
	High risk patients		Medium risk patients		Low risk patients	
	AGP	NO AGP	AGP* (single room)	NO AGP	AGP* (single room)	No AGP
Hand hygiene	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gloves	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use** If contact with blood / body fluids is anticipated
Disposable plastic apron	✗	✓ Single use**	✗	✓ Single use**	✗	✓ Single use** If contact with blood / body fluids is anticipated
Disposable gown	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use** If spraying/splash with blood / body fluids is anticipated	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use** If spraying/splash with blood / body fluids is anticipated	✓ Single use**	✓ Single use** If spraying/splash with blood / body fluids is anticipated
Fluid resistant surgical mask	✗	✓ Sessional use***	✗	✓ Sessional use***	✗	✓ Sessional use***
FFP3 respirator mask/Hood	✓ Sessional use***	✗	✓ Sessional use***	✗	✓ Sessional use***	✗
Eye protection	✓ Sessional use***	✓ Sessional use***	✓ Sessional use***	✓ Sessional use***	✓ Sessional use***	✓ Single use** If spraying/splash with blood / body fluids is anticipated
Minimum 5 air changes required for aerosol clearance https://icmanaesthesiacovid-19.org/managing-theatre-processes-for-planned-surgery-between-covid-19-surges	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗

* **Aerosol generating procedures (AGP)**: low/medium risk patients having AGPs should be in a single room. Where there are insufficient single rooms, cohort together and wear the FFP3 respirator / powered hood sessionally

** **Single use**: changed between patients/individuals and immediately after completing a procedure or task. Discard as clinical waste

*** **Sessional use** – Remain on between patients but changed upon leaving red/amber clinical areas (Bays, Siderooms) and change mask in all areas if moist/contaminated, leave area for a break

Link to PHE guidance:

[COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance)

Triage questions for assessing patients for COVID-19

If No to all questions AND the patient has a negative SARS-CoV-2 swab in last 72 hours follow low risk pathway

	YES	NO
<p>1. Do you or any member of your household/ family have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19?</p> <p>Planned Care: If yes, wait for the agreed period of time depending on date of onset (10 days or 14 if the admission is due to COVID infection) before treatment</p> <p>Urgent Care: If yes, follow High/Medium risk pathway, depending on level of risk.</p>		
<p>2. Are you or any member of your household/family waiting for a COVID-19 test result?</p> <p>Planned Care: If yes, ascertain if treatment can be delayed until results are known.</p> <p>Urgent Care: If yes, follow High/Medium risk pathway, depending on level of risk.</p>		
<p>3. Have you travelled internationally in the last 10 days?</p> <p>Planned Care: If yes, confirm where and if this is a country that had been agreed as safe for travel by the government. If this is not on the list then 10 days quarantine will apply.</p> <p>Urgent Care: If yes, follow the High/Medium risk pathway, according to level of risk.</p>		
<p>4. Have you had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or been in isolation with a suspected case in the last 10 days?</p> <p>Planned Care: If yes, wait for the agreed period of time depending on what date of the isolation period the patients is at (ideally, 10 days) before</p> <p>Urgent Care: If yes, follow High/Medium risk pathway, depending on level of risk.</p>		
<p>5. Do you have any of the following symptoms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High temperature or fever • New, continuous cough • A loss or alteration to taste or smell <p>Planned Care: If yes, provide advice on who to contact (GP/NHS111)</p> <p>Urgent Care: If yes, Follow High/Medium risk pathway.</p>		

Guidance appendix

Link to PHE

[Infection Prevention and Control guidance appendix 1 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)