Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Facility Screening Tasks

General principles for screening patients, staff and visitors. **This applies to the first point of contact screener in an area.**

ED/UCC pre-triage of patients refers to [IPC Recommendations PPE Table for Assessment Centres and EDs with Pre-Triage](#).

Where possible, maintain social distancing of 2 meters, if not follow [AHS Guidelines for Continuous Masking in Healthcare settings](#). Set up your screening station in a way that encourages 2 meters spacing or provide a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass, floor tape, stanchions, and signage).

Strategic table placements where possible, with masks and alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), garbage receptacle away from the screener/greeter and direct person to clean hands and don a mask as necessary.

If you are screening people and are within 2 meters but without physical contact – you need eye protection in addition to continuous masking. Have ABHR and masks available for patients on table 2 meters away from screener and other patients.

When taking a temperature during screening, gown and gloves are not necessary. Clean hands before and after contact.

Fit tested N95 respirators are not preferred for continuous masking or non-AGMP situations but may be selected by healthcare provider after performing a risk assessment. N95 respirators must be changed as recommended.

### Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Tasks limited to</th>
<th>Direct contact with patient (touching)</th>
<th>Within 2 meters of unmasked coughing patient</th>
<th>Risk to screener</th>
<th>PPE recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Facility main entrances, including:  
  - Acute Care  
  - Continuing Care  
  - Addictions and Mental Health  
  - Rehab  
  - Cancer Care  
  - Staff entrances  
  - Ambulatory clinics  
  - Outpatient labs  
  - Diagnostic Imaging Departments |  
  - Maintain 2 meters spacing with desk/signage/line on the floor.  
  - Practice Continuous Masking and Continuous Eye Protection |  
  - Wayfinding and greeters  
  - Symptom screening of patients/staff/visitors (may include taking temperatures)  
  - Directing individuals to clean hands and don mask | Potentially | Potentially | Low/moderate |  
  - Change when wet/soiled and before breaks and at shift changes  
  - Clean hands frequently using ABHR  
  - * gown and gloves **not** recommended |
| Prescreening should be done before appointments  
  - Maintain 2 meters spacing with desk/signage/line on the floor.  
  - Practice Continuous Masking and Eye Protection |  
  - Asking screening questions  
  - Checking patients in  
  - Handling paperwork  
  - Directing patients to clean hands and don mask | Indirect only (ID, paper) | Potentially | Low/moderate |  
  - Change when wet/soiled and before breaks and at shift changes  
  - Clean hands frequently using ABHR  
  - *gown and gloves **not** recommended |

*Frequent use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is recommended in place of wearing gloves. Gloves cannot be cleaned and become contaminated very quickly. Gloves should be used when handling disinfectants or before contact with body fluids. Gowns are not recommended when clothing contamination is unlikely.*

For more information contact [ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca)
© 2021 Alberta Health Services, IPC