

IPC PPE Table for Community Providers/Clinics during COVID-19 (Non-virtual appointments)

1. **This document provides current guidance and recommendations for PPE during COVID-19. Each care space is different and recommendations may change as conditions change.** Always perform a [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#) including a [COVID-19 symptom and risk factor assessment](#) to determine PPE requirements.
2. **Continuous masking:** May use fit-tested N95 respirator **or** seal-checked KN95 mask **or** well-fitting procedure/surgical mask.
 - All three options are considered safe practice for continuous masking.
 - Use appropriate N95 respirator model/size if fit testing is current (i.e., within the last 2 years) and review the [AHS General Instructions for Putting On and Taking Off an N95 Respirator \(Mask\)](#)
 - **Fit testing:** Community clinics may hire a private occupational health contractor to do N95 fit testing.
 - If fit testing is **NOT** current, then don a seal-checked KN95 mask: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-seal-checks-disposable-kn95-respirators-8-5x11.pdf>. **Do not use an N95 respirator if fit testing is not current. A seal check alone is not adequate for an N95 respirator.**
 - A KN95 mask is not a substitute for a fit-tested N95 respirator; however, for groups that have not been fit-tested, a KN95 mask is a safe and reasonable alternative.
 - **Note:** Provincial OHS legislation does not include non-fit tested respirators (e.g. KN95) in the legislative definition of a respirator. Therefore, in Alberta, KN95s are called masks rather than respirators.
 - Use a well-fitting procedure/surgical mask if fit-tested N95/seal-checked KN95 mask not available.
 - **Do not double mask** (in any combination of mask and respirator) as there is an increased risk of self-contamination.
3. Use continuous eye protection regardless of HCW/staff vaccination status.
4. HCWs/staff working behind transparent barriers must follow continuous masking and continuous eye protection.
5. [Perform hand hygiene](#) frequently. Do not wear gloves continuously.
 - Gloves do not replace the need for hand hygiene.
 - Gloves cannot be cleaned and become contaminated very quickly.
 - Gloves should be used when handling disinfectants or before contact with body fluids.
6. Follow order for [donning \(putting on\)](#) and [doffing \(taking off\)](#) PPE. Ensure hand hygiene is done between each step of doffing.
7. These are interim recommendations and may change with emerging scientific data and evolving epidemiology.
8. For further COVID-19 guidance, refer to:
 - [CPSA COVID-19 Guidance for Community Medical Clinics](#)
 - [COVID-19 Guidance for Community Providers](#)

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IPC PPE Table for Community Providers/Clinics (non-virtual appointments) during COVID-19 | 2

HCW/Staff Type Examples	Tasks	Direct Patient Contact?	Within 2 metres of patient or contaminated space?	PPE Required	When to Change	Notes
Patients	Continuous masking (preferably procedure/surgical mask, not cloth/fabric mask) and clean hands upon entry to clinic.					
HCW/staff working 2 metres away from patients and other HCWs	HCWs working in patient care areas or in shared office spaces are to follow continuous masking and continuous eye protection . Additional PPE not required. Perform hand hygiene frequently.					
Patient COVID-19 symptoms & risk factors unknown (not yet screened)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical/clinical staff Office staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening questions Assessment questions/data entry Directing patients to sanitize hands/mask Assisting patients/families and staff 	Yes or No	Yes Continuous Masking Continuous Eye Protection See Personal Protective Equipment – Frequently Asked Questions (PPE FAQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N95 respirator or KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask Eye protection 	Change N95 respirator or KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask and eye protection as a unit if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one or both is wet/soiled contaminated (e.g., AGMP exposure, coughed or sneezed on) before breaks or leaving clinic Reusable eye protection must be cleaned and disinfected. Single-use eye protection must be discarded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform hand hygiene frequently. Do not wear a procedure/surgical mask over an N95 respirator or KN95 mask. Gloves not recommended.

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HCW/Staff Type Examples	Tasks	Direct Patient Contact?	Within 2 metres of patient or contaminated space?	PPE Required	When to Change	Notes
Green Stream Patient [i.e. patient screens negative for symptoms AND risk factors]						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical/clinical staff Office staff Cleaning/Janitorial staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct patient care Contact with patient environment 	Yes (indirect and direct)	Yes Continuous Masking Continuous Eye Protection See Personal Protective Equipment – Frequently Asked Questions (PPE FAQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N95 respirator or KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All three options are considered safe practice. There may be situations where a healthcare worker, based upon their Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) or their assessment of all known and foreseeable risks and hazards, may choose to wear a medical mask instead of an N95 respirator or KN95 mask. Eye protection Gown and gloves should be worn if PCRA indicates potential blood or body fluid exposure e.g., blood/body fluid splash, AGMP, etc. 	Change N95 respirator or KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask and eye protection as a unit if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one or both is wet/soiled contaminated (e.g., AGMP exposure, coughed or sneezed on) before breaks or leaving clinic Re-usable eye protection must be cleaned and disinfected. Single-use eye protection must be discarded. Gown and gloves (if used) to be doffed after each patient encounter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform hand hygiene frequently. Do not wear a procedure/surgical mask over an N95 respirator or KN95 mask.

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HCW/Staff Type Examples	Tasks	Direct Patient Contact?	Within 2 metres of patient or contaminated space?	PPE Required	When to Change	Notes
Pink Stream Patient [i.e., on COVID-related Contact and Droplet Precautions because symptom or risk factor present, confirmed COVID-19, or unable to assess (e.g., altered cognition)]						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical/clinical staff • Office staff • Cleaning/Janitorial staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct patient care • Contact with patient environment 	Yes (indirect and direct)	Yes Continuous Masking Continuous Eye Protection See Personal Protective Equipment – Frequently Asked Questions (PPE FAQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator or KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must use N95 respirator or KN95 mask if AGMP in progress or anticipated ○ There may be situations where a healthcare worker, based upon their PCRA or their assessment of all known and foreseeable risks and hazards, may choose to wear a medical mask instead of an N95 respirator or KN95 mask. • Eye protection • Gown • Gloves 	Change ALL PPE after each patient encounter. Reusable eye protection must be cleaned and disinfected. Single-use eye protection must be discarded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene frequently. • Do not wear a procedure/surgical mask over an N95 respirator or KN95 mask.

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