



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Perform hand hygiene before putting on PPE and after taking it off.
- All PPE should be put on upon entering the care area EXCEPT for respirators and face masks, which you should put on right before entering.
- Remove all PPE right before leaving the care area except the respirator.
- Follow CDC recommendations for safely removing and discarding PPE.



- Wear a respirator for aerosol-generating procedures.
- Don't touch your respirator or face mask during the visit.

- In a shortage, prioritize respirators for procedures; use respirators beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life; and implement limited re-use of N95 respirators for patients with COVID-19, measles and varicella.



- Put on clean, non-sterile gloves upon entering the care area.
- Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated during the visit. Practice hand hygiene after removing them.

- Remove and discard gloves when leaving the patient room or care area, and immediately perform hand hygiene.



- Put on a clean gown upon entering the care area.
- Change the gown if it becomes soiled during the visit.
- If it's disposable, remove and discard it before leaving the care area.

- In a shortage, prioritize gowns for procedures, activities where splashes or sprays are anticipated, and high-contact activities.



- Make sure reusable goggles or shields are disinfected properly.
- Don't touch your eye protection during the visit.

- Remove eye protection right before leaving the care area.

- Put on goggles or a disposable face shield (eyeglasses are insufficient!) that covers the front and sides of the face upon entering the care area.

All Care Settings

Inpatient / Emergency

Outpatient / Urgent

Home

Prior to Encounter

- Assess whether the patient has symptoms of a respiratory infection or suspect COVID-19.
- Make sure all staff are educated on infection control procedures for COVID-19.
- Know the criteria for a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19.
- Ask ALL patients about: symptoms of a respiratory infection; foreign travel; and contact with possible COVID-19 patients.

- As soon as possible, give patients with respiratory symptoms a mask, and instruct them to wear it for the entire visit unless told otherwise.
- Ask patients with possible COVID-19 symptoms to wait separately from other patients.

- If a patient is requesting an appointment for respiratory symptoms, assess whether the patient can be treated remotely.
- Upon entry, give patients with respiratory symptoms a mask, and instruct them to wear it for the entire visit unless told otherwise.
- Keep patients with possible COVID-19 symptoms in a separate waiting room.
- Contact patients via phone when it's their turn.

- Before making a home visit, speak with the patient by phone.

During the Encounter

- Perform hand hygiene* before and after all patient interactions, and contact with high-touch surfaces.**
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE); see left callout.
- If an unprotected exposure takes place, contact your facility's occupational health department.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Ask COVID-19 patients not to leave their room. They should only do so if it's medically necessary.

- Perform triage and isolate patients with symptoms of suspected COVID-19 or respiratory infection as quickly as possible.
- Place admitted patients with suspected or known COVID-19 in single occupancy rooms with dedicated bathrooms. Place patients requiring aerosol-generating procedures in airborne infection isolation rooms (AIIRs).
- Avoid performing procedures that could generate coughing. If they're medically necessary, then: do it in an AIIR; wear full PPE; and make sure surfaces in the room are disinfected ASAP.
- Ask all admitted patients daily about whether they've developed respiratory symptoms.

- Isolate patients with symptoms of suspected COVID-19 or respiratory infection (ex. fever, cough) in an exam room with the door closed as quickly as possible.
- Avoid performing procedures that could generate coughing.
- If hospitalization isn't medically necessary, recommend home care.

- For patients with possible COVID-19, recommend the patient stay in a separate bedroom and that the patient, family and caregivers have access to PPE, especially gloves and face masks.
- During home visits with no suspected COVID-19, follow regular safety precautions, especially hand-washing.

Post-Encounter

- If an unprotected exposure takes place, contact your facility's occupational health department.
- Correctly remove and dispose of all PPE.
- Wash your hands!

- As soon as possible, give patients with respiratory symptoms a mask, and instruct them to wear it for the entire visit unless told otherwise.
- Ask patients with possible COVID-19 symptoms to wait separately from other patients.

- Assure the room is disinfected appropriately.
- Don't enter the room until enough time has elapsed that potential infectious air particles are gone.

- If the symptoms are indicative of COVID-19, call the county health department and ask about getting a test.

*Use sanitizer with 60-95 percent alcohol or antibacterial, liquid soap for 20 seconds.
**High-touch surfaces include your stethoscope, door knobs, your phone or electronic equipment.