



Personal Protective Equipment Guidance

4/1/2020

The Iowa Department of Public Health is recommending that healthcare workers that provide patient care in long term care facilities should use a minimum level of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all patient care activities. These healthcare workers should use a face mask and eye protection for all patient encounters. The Iowa Department of Public Health recognizes this recommendation is being made while PPE is in short supply, however, the protection of our healthcare workforce and the vulnerable populations that live in long term care settings are important priorities. If commercially manufactured PPE is not readily available, IDPH has provided guidance for the use of homemade masks identified in the references below.

All healthcare workers in any setting should continue to use the recommended PPE for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients in any setting. This means that providers who are evaluating patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should use standard, contact, and droplet precautions with eye protection that covers the front and sides of the face. Additionally, a fit-test N95 respirator or equivalent should be used when performing aerosol-generating procedures, which include things like intubation, tracheal aspiration and nebulized treatment.

Additionally, long-term care facilities should report to the Iowa Department of Public Health if they have two or more staff or residents with any kind of respiratory illness:

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/LTC%20Illness%20Checklist.pdf>

Facilities with a case of COVID-19 should implement the outbreak checklist found at:

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/7/LTC%20Outbreak%20Document%20.pdf>

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Healthcare>

https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/7/Mask%20Re-use%20Guidance%203_28_20%20.pdf

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/7/Homemade%20Mask%20Guidance%20for%20health%20care%20workers.pdf>