

Frequently Asked Questions Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our staff have a number of questions related to the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) while in the hospital and during client care.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions to help you understanding Holland Bloorview's policies related to PPE use.

FAQ

1. How do I use my mask while I am working in client care?

- The mask is to be worn continuously on the unit, without removing the mask between patient encounters.
- If working with a client who is on droplet/contact precautions – when going into the room, take off current mask and reserve it in a paper bag. Switch to a new mask, use eye protection, and don additional personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gown and gloves as needed.
- When leaving the room dispose of all used PPE except goggles, which may be cleaned with cavi-wipes and reused. Don previously saved mask.
- Please dispose of masks in a sanitary manner when you are no longer using them and kindly remind people who might not be familiar with mask use that they must be disposed of safely.

2. Should we be wearing eye protection during clinical care?

Directions for eye protection are as follows:

- If you are within less than two meters of a client and providing prolonged client care activities (i.e. bathing, changing diapers, physical assessments, suctioning, hands-on therapy, feeding, etc.), you must wear eye protection along with a mask.
- If you are more than two meters of a client when providing care then you don't need to wear eye protection with your mask (i.e. changing an empty bed, talking with a client from a distance, during some recreational activities, during some group activities, housekeeping, food services, fixing a lightbulb, etc.)
- If you wear glasses, have hearing aids, microtia face shield or mask with visor might be easier to wear. If you don't fall under the mentioned criteria then please use the goggles.

- If you have questions about what personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear during clinical care, we've created a [visual guide for what PPE](#) to wear. This graphic is posted on the [COVID 19: Resources for staff page](#) and on the third floor and will be updated when there is a change in practice.

4. Do I need to wear goggles when working with a client or family member and can't maintain 2 meters distance (i.e. working on completing forms)?

- Goggles are meant to be worn for **direct client care** when 2 meters distance (6 feet) is not achievable,
- Goggles are to be worn when a **client is in isolation**, remember to clean your goggles when exiting the isolation room.
- The only time you would wear goggles when interacting with a **caregiver** is when:
 - You can not maintain 2 meters (6 feet) of distance, OR
 - The individual has been isolated, remember to clean your goggles when leaving an isolation room.

5. What PPE should I wear during clinical appointments?

- Please see our [Personal Protective Equipment infographic](#).