

## **Guidance for the use of your Personal Protective Equipment Emergency Pack**

Most staff in education, childcare and children's services will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from [others](#).

PPE is only needed in a small number of cases:

- children, young people and learners whose care routinely **already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs** should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes **unwell with symptoms of coronavirus** (new continuous cough OR fever OR loss/change to sense of smell or taste) while in their setting and needs **direct personal care** until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn (see Table A).

In non-residential settings, any child, young person or other learner who starts displaying coronavirus symptoms while at their setting should, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. In exceptional circumstances, where this is not possible, and the setting needs to take responsibility for transporting them home, or where a symptomatic child or young person needs to be transported between residential settings, you should do one of the following:

- use a vehicle with a bulkhead
- the driver and passenger should maintain a distance of 2 metres from each other
- the driver should use PPE (see Table A), and the passenger should wear a face mask if they are old enough and able to do so

## **Safe disposal of Personal Protective Equipment in non-clinical settings**

Waste from people with symptoms of COVID-19, waste from cleaning of areas where they have been (including disposable cloths and tissues) and PPE waste from their care:

1. should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full;
2. the plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied;

3. it should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage for 72 hours. Waste should be stored safely and securely kept away from children. You should not put your waste in communal waste areas until the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours. Storing for 72 hours saves unnecessary waste movements and minimises the risk to waste operatives.

Members of staff that have been supervising a child or young person with symptoms of COVID in a school or early years setting can return to work once the child/young person has been collected. They should not need to change their clothes if the guidance described here has been followed, unless the clothes have been obviously soiled for example with vomit.

**Table A: Personal Protective Equipment requirements for Education and Childcare Setting scenarios**

		PPE requirements				Use of additional measures <sup>2</sup> to reduce COVID risk including SICPs
		1	2	3	4	
Scenario	Examples of LA work	Disposable plastic apron (single use)	Disposable gloves (single use)	Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask sessional use <sup>1</sup>	Eye/face protection (sessional use face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles) <sup>1</sup>	
Staff able to maintain <b>2 metres</b> social distancing from children and their families.	Social care visit, some school staff	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

<p>Staff <b>not providing direct care<sup>2</sup> BUT UNABLE to maintain 2 metres</b> distance, from individuals who are <b>not possible or confirmed cases and no one is shielding</b></p>	<p>Early years and school settings, health visiting, social care visit, children's home worker</p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p>Staff <b>providing direct care<sup>2</sup></b> to individuals who are <b>not possible or confirmed cases and no one is shielding</b></p>	<p>Early years settings, special schools, health visiting, social care visit, portage</p>	<p><b>Not required but as per the Standard Infection Control Precautions required for the job role</b></p>	<p><b>Not required but as per the Standard Infection Control Precautions required for the job role</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p>Staff supervising a possible or confirmed case and unable to maintain 2 metre distancing but no direct care<sup>2</sup> required</p>	<p>School or early years setting where a child becomes unwell within the setting and must be supervised until collected and 2 meter distance unable to be kept e.g. due to child's age</p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>
<p>Staff working or providing care <b>within 2 metres</b> of individuals who are <b>possible or confirmed cases</b> and physical contact is required</p>	<p>Social care visit, children's home worker, school or early years setting where a child becomes unwell within the setting</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p><i>Need subject to risk assessment<sup>1</sup></i></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>

<p>Staff transferring possible or confirmed COVID-19 cases and they will be <b>within 2 metres of the case</b> (separate guidance is available for those handling the deceased)</p>	<p>Drivers transporting possible or confirmed cases from one location to another</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Need subject to risk assessment<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Children or young people being transported from one setting to another who <b>do not have symptoms of COVID-19</b> who are not providing direct care<sup>2</sup> but may come within 2 metres</p>	<p>School transport and escorts not providing health interventions/direct care<sup>4</sup> (see Section 5.3)</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>YES</p>

1. A **fluid-resistant surgical mask** is needed where there is **high risk from respiratory droplets** (e.g. when undertaking tasks close to individuals who are repeatedly coughing). **Eye protection** may be needed for certain tasks where there is a **risk of contamination to the eyes from respiratory droplets or from splashing of secretions** (e.g. when undertaking prolonged tasks near individuals who are repeatedly coughing or may be vomiting). The local Public Health England Health Protection Team can be contacted for advice: call 0300 303 8162 or email [swhpt@phe.gov.uk](mailto:swhpt@phe.gov.uk).

A **surgical mask and eye protection** can be used **continuously** while providing care until you take a break from duties. **Gloves and aprons** must be changed between individuals and hands and forearms cleaned after removal.

**PPE should not be subject to continued use if damaged, soiled, compromised or uncomfortable** – please refer to the [national guidance](#).

2. When the term **direct care** is used, this refers to all caring activities that involve physical contact with the client including help with washing, toileting, dressing, oral care and feeding, assistance with medication or walking and getting up/going to bed.

### **Also attached with this guidance:**

- PHE Quick Guide to Donning and Doffing PPE
- PHE Best Practice Hand Wash