

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Facility Screening Tasks

General principles for screening patients, staff and visitors. **This applies to the first point of contact screener in an area.**

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 \(PCRA\)](#) to determine PPE requirements.
2. **ED/UCC pre-triage of patients:** Refer to [IPC PPE Table for Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres during COVID-19](#).
3. **Continuous masking:** At screening stations, use fit-tested N95 respirator **or** seal-checked KN95 mask **or** well-fitting procedure/surgical mask.
 - 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 KN95 mask or medical mask instead of an N95 respirator. See [Joint Statement](#) for more information.
 - These options are all considered safe practice for continuous masking. **KN95 masks are not used at acute care sites.**
 - 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 \(Mask\)](#).
 - **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.
 - If fit testing is **NOT** available or current then don a seal-checked KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask.
 - **Do not double mask** (in any combination of mask and respirator) as there is an increased risk of self-contamination.
4. Use continuous eye protection regardless of HCW vaccination status.
5. HCWs working behind transparent barriers must follow continuous masking and eye protection directives.
6. When taking a temperature during screening, gown and gloves are not necessary. Clean hands before and after contact.
7. [Perform hand hygiene](#) frequently rather than wearing gloves. Do not wear gloves continuously.
 - Gloves do not replace the need for hand hygiene.
 - Gloves cannot be cleaned and become contaminated very quickly. Gloves are single use.
8. These are interim recommendations and may change with emerging scientific data and evolving epidemiology.

Location	Tasks	Direct contact with person (touching)	Within 2 metres of unmasked coughing person	PPE and Physical Distance Recommendations	When to Change	Notes
Facility main entrances, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute Care Continuing Care Addictions and Mental Health Rehab Cancer Care Staff entrances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayfinding and greeters Symptom screening of patients/staff/visitors (may include taking temperatures) Directing individuals to clean hands and don mask 	Yes or No	Yes or No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 2 metres spacing with desk/signage/line on the floor or a physical barrier. See Personal Protective Equipment – Frequently Asked Questions (PPE FAQ) Continuous Masking using fit-tested N95 or seal-checked KN95 mask or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask Continuous eye protection Additional PPE not recommended. Gown and glove use based on Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA). 	Change N95 respirator or KN95 mask or 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., coughed or sneezed on); before breaks and shift change. Reusable eye protection must be cleaned and disinfected. Single-use eye protection must be discarded. Gown and gloves (if used) to be doffed after each encounter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform hand hygiene frequently using ABHR. Do not wear a procedure/surgical mask over an N95 respirator or KN95 mask.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambulatory clinics Outpatient labs Diagnostic Imaging Departments Pre-screening may be done before appointments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking screening questions Checking in patients/residents/ clients Handling paperwork Directing individuals to clean hands and don mask 	Yes [Indirect]				



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