

MEMO

Date: April 1, 2020
To: All facility-based health-care workers
From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health
Re: **Universal Personal Protective Equipment**

All health-care workers in Manitoba who work in facilities and who come into contact with patients during the course of their work should wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Required PPE includes a procedure mask, eye protection, a gown and gloves.

Facilities should contact COVID-19 Central Supply Chain Management at scmcommandintake@sharedhealthmb.ca to arrange for a [two-week PPE supply](#) in order to implement this change as soon as possible.

Please note the following **changes in protocol** related to universal PPE:

1. *Procedure masks (shown below) and eye protection should **always** be worn when providing direct patient care.
2. **Masks and eye protection are no longer required to be doffed between patients. These items should be doffed only when wet, soiled, or damaged AND at each meal break AND end of each shift.**

Please note that there is **no change** to the following:

3. When providing care to patients with respiratory symptoms or patients who are COVID-19 positive, enhanced droplet/contact precaution PPE should be **worn at all times**.
4. Gowns and gloves **must** be changed between each patient encounter; hand hygiene is required before and after donning and doffing gown and gloves.
5. N95 respirators should **ONLY** be worn for aerosol generating medical procedures.

Correct donning and doffing of PPE is necessary to protect yourself, your colleagues and your patients. Please remember that Doffing (taking off PPE) is often identified as where a breach occurs and take additional care.

Ensure consistent and correct donning to protect yourself and practice correct doffing to ensure you do not contaminate yourself when removing PPE. Refer to the following videos for assistance in correctly donning and doffing PPE.

Please note, the first relates to the use of N95 respirators during aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs). The second relates to the correct use of procedure/surgical masks.

AGMP (Use of N95 respirator): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syh5UnC6G2k>

This video shows the procedure for donning and doffing PPE required for an AGMP. Note: the video differs in one key point - where there isn't an anteroom, staff must doff the face protection and respirator outside the room.

This is outlined here (page 13): <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/infection-prevention-and-control-learning-booklet.pdf>

Appropriate Donning and Doffing of Procedure/Surgical Mask:

<https://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/ipc/ppe-videos.php>

These videos show the procedure for donning, then doffing, appropriate PPE for when not performing an AGMP.

Thank you in advance for complying with the above changes.



*Image of Procedure Mask