

## Guidance on use of PPE in Social Services

Basic hygiene measures for everyone include; physical distancing, good hand hygiene, cough etiquette, regular cleaning of surfaces and frequently touched items, avoid touching face, eyes, mouth and nose.

When considering the need for PPE:

- Find out the health and possible exposure of your clients to Covid-19. If visiting them, staff could phoning ahead to ask them about this.
- Consider staff ability to maintain physical distancing and whether they might need to be in close contact with clients.

The table below sets out the PPE guidance for different scenarios.

RISK ASSESSMENT		PHYSICAL DISTANCING	PHYSICAL DISTANCING	CLOSE CONTACT
Client health status and contact history		Physical distancing of 1m+ <b>can be maintained</b> during interaction	Interaction could breach physical distancing of 1m <b>for 15 minutes or more</b>	Interaction <b>could lead to contact with body fluid</b> (e.g. person may need basic first aid)
Client has NO respiratory symptoms	Client <b>history known</b> – no recent contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case	No PPE required	No PPE Required	No additional PPE Required
	Client <b>recent contact history uncertain</b>	No PPE required	No PPE required	Surgical mask and hand hygiene
	Client has been (or claims to have been) in <b>close contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case</b>	No PPE required	Surgical mask and hand hygiene	Surgical mask and hand hygiene
Client HAS respiratory symptoms		No PPE required	Surgical mask and hand hygiene	Surgical mask and hand hygiene

- Note that procedures for administering first aid (e.g. disposable sterile gloves) should be followed – PPE is in addition to usual measures
- Hand hygiene refers to additional cleansing – e.g. thorough washing before and after every interaction.
- The use of hand sanitiser or gloves are recommended only if there is no access to handwashing facilities.
- It is recognised that workers and clients may feel reassured and more able to engage if masks are worn during other interactions
- But also note that PPE can give workers and clients a false level of assurance – act like you're not wearing any
- If the client has Covid-19, discuss with your local public health unit the best way to interact with the client.
- Follow the [guidance](#) on how to put on and wear PPE (e.g. don't keep touching masks).