

## PPE Required During COVID-19 Pandemic: Community Health Services

This document provides the best current guidance for PPE use in community health services. Northern Health is closely monitoring the provincial directions around PPE and will update this document to align with that direction.

### Definitions

**Direct client care:** providing care within two metres of a patient, or in direct physical contact with a client.

**Cover gown:** A gown used to keep scrubs or uniform clean between clients.

**Isolation gown:** A gown with a protective barrier that is fluid resistant. The anticipated level of fluid penetration will guide the level of protection needed. There are disposable and reusable options.

**Chemo gown:** A disposable gown used when handling and mixing hazardous drugs, and for entering patient rooms while they are on cytotoxic precautions.

During COVID-19 response, **routine precautions** include the addition of glasses, procedure mask and gloves, changed between clients. When in the client's home, procedure mask and eye protection must be worn, in addition to performing good hand hygiene and wearing gloves when appropriate.

This document provides guidance for service with asymptomatic clients. When providing service to symptomatic or confirmed COVID clients, contact and droplet precautions are required. Screened positive clients are asked to wear a mask.

Task / Service	Program	Hand Hygiene (pre/post)	Cover Gown	Gloves	Respiratory Protection		Eye Protection (safety glasses)	Booties	Rationale / Notes
					Procedure Mask	N95 Respirator			
Food Preparation	Home Support	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Routine precautions. Cross contamination principles.
Laundry	Home Support	✓	✓ Cover gown/apron if visibly soiled	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	High prevalence of human waste in bedding and on clothing.
Toileting	Home Support	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	No additional risk due to COVID. Droplet precautions not necessary.
Showering / Bathing	Home Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Splash risk.
Handling Medications / supervision / support	Home Support Home Care Nursing Burn/Wound/Ostomy	✓	✗	✓ For oral, sublingual, IM and rectal	✓	✗	✓	✗	No additional risk due to COVID.

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Homes with Biohazard	Home Support Home Care Nursing Burn/Wound/Ostomy	✓	✓ Isolation Gown	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓ Bed bug booties when applicable	Contact droplet or hazard precautions (Reference hazardous medication guidelines <a href="#">BC Hazardous Drugs Control Matrix</a> )
Personal Hygiene (skin care, peri care, incontinence)	Home Support	✓	✓ Cover gown/apron only if body fluids uncontained	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Feces, blood, urine, oral secretions, food residue on people
Oral Care	Home Support	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Splash risk, risk to patient given close proximity of care provider.
Wound Care	Home Care Nursing	✓	✓ Cover gown/apron only if exudate or irrigation uncontained	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Increased risk for pathogen transmission

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Catheter Care / Ostomy	Home Support Home Care Nursing	✓	✓ Cover gown / apron only if body fluids uncontained	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Exposure to feces, blood / body fluids
IV Therapy	Home Care Nursing	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Risk of splash / BBF exposure
Client Transport	Mental Health ICMT	✓	✗	✗	✓ Client should also wear a mask	✗	✓	✗	Physical distancing not possible in vehicles.
Clinic Office Visits and Home Visits	IPT Outreach	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	Eye protection not necessary if HCW and client can maintain 2m distance at all times.
Palliative Care	Home Support Home Care Nursing	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	Standard precautions for providing care during COVID