

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR CARE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SUSPECT OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 IN EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICE SETTINGS

Key Findings

- Droplet and Contact Precautions are recommended for supporting clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Personal protective equipment that may be required include:
 - Facial protection such as surgical masks and N95 respirators (N95 respirators are not needed unless performing an aerosol generating procedure)
 - Eye protection such as safety glasses, face shields or masks with visor attachments,
 - Gloves, and/or
 - Isolation gowns.
- No personal protective equipment is required for supporting clients who are asymptomatic.
 - Strategies for providers to implement to reduce the risk of acute respiratory illness transmission are to continue to practice physical distancing as outlined in the *Interim Guidance Document for Emergency Housing Service Settings Providers*.

Background

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses known to cause illness ranging from the simple common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). COVID-19 which was originally identified in Wuhan, China is a new (novel) strain that experts are learning more about every day. More information can be found on www.york.ca/COVID19

Knowledge about COVID-19 is continually evolving and what is currently known to date is:

- COVID-19 cases and clusters demonstrate that Droplet/Contact transmission are the routes of transmission.
- The majority of cases are linked to person-to-person transmission through close direct contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through the airborne route.

Purpose

The personal protection of individuals in Emergency Housing Service Settings where support and care is provided is vital. Emergency Housing Service Settings in York Region includes:

- Seasonal shelters
- Adult Emergency Housing Facilities
- Women and Children Shelters
- Family Shelters
- Youth Shelters

Public Health

1-877-464-9675 TTY 1-866-512-6228

york.ca/covid19

March 31, 2020 - information may be subject to change

Adapted from Public Health Ontario



Objective

This summary of recommendations document is intended to support the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) planning and varied recommendations for the following groups who may be present at emergency housing services:

1. **Visitors/Volunteers** who are individuals that may enter emergency housing and drop-in settings to support programs and services, but who do not rely on those services for meeting their shelter and housing needs,
2. **Staff** employed in emergency housing service operations and/or drop in settings, and
3. **Clients** that access shelter services and drop-ins and rely on these settings for housing, food, and other services

When working with individuals who access shelter services and drop-ins and are:

1. **Asymptomatic without exposure to COVID-19**
2. **Asymptomatic with exposure to COVID-19**
3. **Symptomatic with or without exposure to COVID-19**
4. **Symptomatic and test results are pending, negative or positive**

This guidance document provides basic information only and is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. For general IPAC Guidance in Emergency Housing, click [here](#).

Please check the Ministry of Health at www.Ontario.ca/covid19 regularly for updates related to this document, case definition, frequently asked questions and other information or visit York Region website at www.york.ca/covid19.

As additional evidence emerges, this document will be amended.

Self-Isolation Recommendations and Discharge Guidance

| Client Description | Self-Isolation Requirement |
|---|--|
| Without symptoms AND no exposure | No self-isolation requirement. Provide reassurance and refer them to COVID-19 websites www.york.ca/covid19 and www.Ontario.ca/covid19 . A self-assessment tool is available online for all individuals to complete in case they develop symptoms. |
| Without symptoms AND with exposure | Provide information on continued self-monitoring and self-isolation for 14 days from exposure risk. If symptoms develop then follow guidelines below |
| With symptoms AND no known exposure to COVID-19 | Should self-isolate for 14 days after onset of symptoms. |
| With symptoms AND exposure to COVID-19 | Shelter contacts and other close contacts while the individual was ill OR in the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days and monitor their symptoms. |
| With symptoms and tested for COVID-19 AND results are pending/negative/positive | |

*Close contact can result from: providing care for a positive case (e.g., healthcare workers, family members or other caregivers), living with a case, or having similar close physical, or prolonged face-to-face contact with a positive case while the case was ill.

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the most visible control precaution against COVID-19 transmission **but should not be** relied on as a stand-alone primary prevention strategy.

PPE refers to the availability, support and appropriate use of physical barriers between a person and an infectious agent/infected source to minimize exposure and prevent transmission. Examples of PPE barriers include:

- Protection such as surgical masks and N95 respirators,
- Eye protection such as safety glasses, face shields or masks with visor attachments,
- Gloves, and/or
- Isolation gowns.

York Region will assist to support **initial** access to PPE for Emergency Housing Service Settings Providers, including resources to ensure competency on the appropriate selection, use and disposal of PPE to prevent exposure to infection. Ongoing access and management of PPE will need to be determined by providers.

Client Accommodations

Clients who are self-isolating should stay in a separate room, away from other people within the housing setting, as much as possible. Other clients should stay in a different room and use a separate washroom. Clients who are self-isolating should avoid sharing with others any personal items that can come into contact with saliva, such as toothbrushes, eating utensils, cups/bottles, towels, and bedding.

Cleaning and disinfecting of all frequently touched surfaces and objects within the self-isolating client's room should be completed daily, in addition to bathroom and toilet surfaces and any areas that are contaminated with respiratory secretions. Clean with detergent (soap) and water and then disinfect with an over the counter disinfectant. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects within the facility (kitchens, common areas, dining areas, desks, shared sleeping spaces, doorknobs, and faucets) is also imperative.

Summary of PPE Recommendations

This summary of recommendations is intended to inform minimum expectations for PPE. However, emergency housing service settings should follow their own institutional or organizational infection prevention and control policies and procedures on PPE.

| Asymptomatic Individuals in Emergency Housing Service Setting | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Individual | Activity | Type of PPE or Procedure |
| Staff | All | No PPE equipment required Staff, volunteers and clients should continue strategies to reduce the risk of acute respiratory transmission as outlined in the Interim Guidance Document for Emergency Homeless Service Settings for Providers |
| Visitors/Volunteers | | |
| Clients | | |

Confirmed Positive and/or Symptomatic Individuals in Emergency Housing Service Settings

| Individual | Activity | Type of PPE or Procedure |
|------------|--|--|
| Staff | Providing direct care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 clients | Droplet and Contact precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedure mask • Isolation gown • Gloves • Eye protection |
| | Preliminary screening/admitting clients not involving direct contact | If able to maintain spatial distance of at least 2 metres or separation by physical barrier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No PPE required Otherwise, droplet precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedure mask • Eye protection |
| | Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with clients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No PPE required |
| | Activities in hallways/areas where clients may be transported or passed through and there is no activity that involves contact with client suspected or confirmed for COVID-19 | Routine practices and Additional Precautions based on risk assessment (anticipated interaction with client). |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Environmental services/cleaning within the client's room while the client is in the room | <p>Droplet precautions if coming within 2 meters of the client, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedure mask • Eye protection <p>Contact precautions if contact with the client's environment is anticipated (e.g., bedding, high touch surfaces)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation gown • Gloves |
| Individual | Activity | Type of PPE or Procedure |
| Visitors/Volunteers | Entering the room of a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 client should be kept to a minimum | <p>Droplet and Contact precautions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedure mask • Eye protection • Isolation gown • Gloves |
| | Activities in hallways/areas where clients may be transported or pass through, and there is no activity involving contact with symptomatic or confirmed COVID-19 client | Routine practices and Additional Precautions based on risk assessment (anticipated interaction with client). |
| Clients (symptomatic or confirmed to have COVID-19) | Any activity within the isolated setting | <p>Maintain spatial distance of at least 2 metres or separation by physical barrier.</p> <p>Wear surgical/procedure mask if within 2 metres of others (if tolerated).</p> <p>When no mask is worn, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or into a tissue and perform hand hygiene.</p> <p>Perform hand hygiene frequently and prior to contact with staff/visitors, after washroom use, prior to eating and after coughing and sneezing.</p> |

The following resources provide direction on putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) PPE:

- [Link to PPE Poster](#)
- [Poster on how to wear a mask](#)
- [Visit this link for a video on removing PPE safely](#)

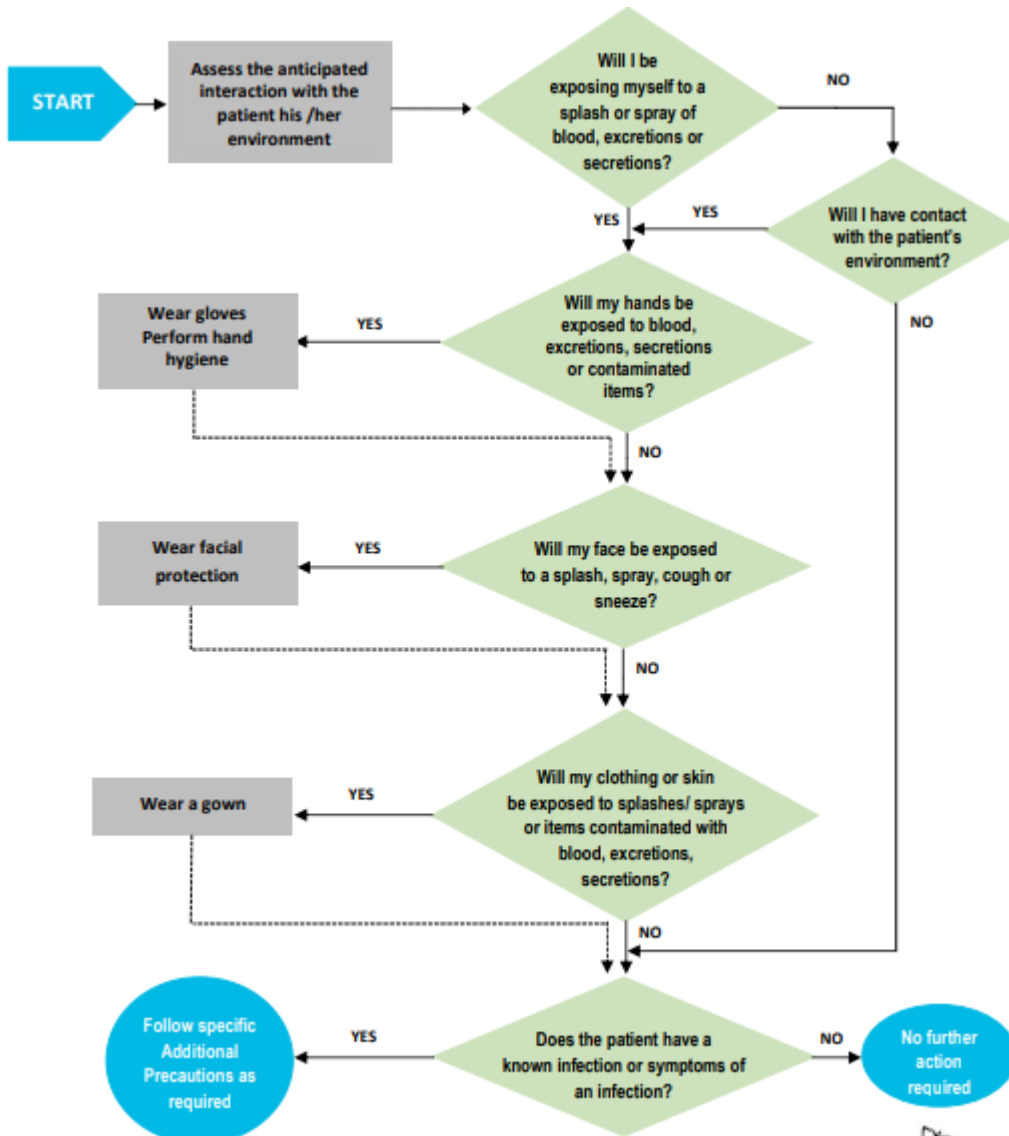
Should the situation arise that PPE is limited or unavailable; providers can refer to the following resources:

- [World Health Organization's Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus diseases \(COVID-19\): Interim Guidance](#)
- [Public Health Ontario Risk Algorithm to Guide PPE Use \(in Appendix A, please use hyperlink for the most current version\)](#)

Or contact York Region Public Health, Infection Prevention and Control Program at 1-800-361-5653.

Appendix A

Risk Algorithm to Guide PPE Use



For more information please contact Public Health Ontario's Infection Prevention and Control Department at



References

- Government of Ontario. (2020). Guidance for providers of services for people experiencing homelessness (in the context of COVID-19). Accessed on March 30, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/homelessness.html>
- Public Health Ontario. (2020). Risk Algorithm to Guide to PPE Use. Accessed on March 29, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/clinical-office-risk-algorithm-ppe.pdf?la=en>
- Public Health Ontario. (2020). Technical Brief: Updated IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID 19. Accessed on March 27, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/updated-ipac-measures-covid-19.pdf?la=en>
- Regional Municipality of York. (2020). Additional Guidance Document for COVID-19 from Ministry of Health and Public Health Ontario. Covid-19 update to York Region health care providers as of March 26, 2020. Accessed on March 27, 2020. Retrieved from york.ca/healthprofessionals
- Regional Municipality of York. A Public Health Guide for Living in Group Residences. Accessed on March 27, 2020. Retrieved from https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/14a37246-b6be-43c9-a511-1887f87d714f/IPAC+Guide+for+Group+Living+Residences.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE_Z18_29D41BG0PGOC70QQGGJK4I0004-14a37246-b6be-43c9-a511-1887f87d714f-mLVOXKp
- Regional Municipality of York. Status of Cases in York Region. Accessed on March 27, 2020. Retrieved from https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/infectiousdiseasesandprevention/covid19/covid19!/ut/p/z1/jY_BislwElafxQdYZhK7bXqMXdckXakgajcXCW3WDWharPbg01tFEA9W5zDMwDfz84GGHLQ3rduYg6u82Xb7rw7Xkk-kECmqLGAJcsy4ohHDcUxgdQXwSXEE_c59D6D736tXAZ0B3U-T6QZ0bQ7_H87_VZB33Rad47EpXWNNYxvjy3pvW-sv5pAXVetKEt-HFejHqMmcBSiXKuJLkmEghzeA0iAUJEGFIImMov6PZ5xcTBFN6A3ps6t0iP_2MYun44AyOaqq5/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/#.Xn4tudJKjIU
- World Health Organization. (2020). Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19): interim guidance, 27 February 2020. World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331215>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO