

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Decision Tree for Caregivers

## When do I use Personal Protective Equipment?

### Handwashing

#### Wash your hands:

- Upon entering **and** leaving the client's home.
- Before putting on gloves **and** after removing gloves.
- Before **and** after assisting the client with personal care, bathing and peri care.
- Before **and** after cleaning toilets & bathrooms.
- Handling potentially contaminated or soiled clothes and bed linens.
- Before preparing food **and** after eating and drinking.
- Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces **used by the client**.

### Gloves

#### Wear disposable gloves for all personal care:

- When in contact with blood, body fluids (urine, feces) or respiratory secretions (mucus).

Dispose of the gloves safely. Do not reuse the gloves.

#### Wear reusable gloves:

- In the home for general house cleaning and disinfecting to preserve glove supply.

#### Wash reusable gloves:

- With soap and water while still on your hands.
- Then use a disinfectant and hang them to dry.

### Mask

#### Face mask should not be worn:

- The CDC **does not** recommend people **who are well** wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illness including COVID-19.

#### Face mask should only be worn:

- If confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case with symptoms

#### Mask Steps:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Put on using the loops only. Do not touch the mask!
3. Secure fit around your nose and mouth.
4. When time to remove, wash your hands and remove by the ear loops.
5. Dispose of properly.
6. Wash your hands again.

### Gown

#### Gowns should only be worn:

- To protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during activities that are likely to generate splashes of blood, urine, feces or mucus.
- If confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case with symptoms

### Protective Eyewear

#### Protective Eyewear should be worn:

- If there is the possibility of splashes, sprays of body fluid or secretions.
- If confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case with symptoms