

# 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 and room.
- Before putting on **and** after taking off PPE (gloves, masks and gowns)
- 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

#### Disposable 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.

#### Reusables 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.

### FACE COVERING

#### Cloth Face Mask

- These are to be worn when in the working environment for face coverings as required for all employees, but not for working with COVID positive clients/patients.
- Cloth or fabric masks and bandanas are not considered PPE and are to be used with caution when using in place of nonexistent supply of surgical masks.

#### Surgical Face Mask

- Routine use of surgical masks should be limited to activities where splashes and sprays of body fluids are anticipated, or for prolonged close contact with a potentially infectious person.

#### N95 / KN95

- Providing direct care for COVID-19 positive persons
- Performing aerosol generating procedures like deep suctioning, tracheostomy care or aerosolized medication administration

#### Mask Covering 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. **N95 and Surgical:** Dispose of properly. | **Cloth:** Wash and dry after each use (see [How to Wash Cloth Face Coverings](#))
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**