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## ***COVID-19 PPE Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities***

### ***EPIC Fact Sheet***

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#### **General guidance:**

All HCP (health care personnel) should always wear a facemask while in the facility even if **no** COVID-19 positive or unknown residents are in the facility. A face mask with an exhalation valve is unacceptable. If this type of mask is being worn, there must be a surgical mask covering it.

Residents should wear a cloth face covering or facemask (if tolerated) whenever they leave their room, including those procedures outside the facility. Visitors should wear a cloth face covering at all times while in the facility.

#### **Guidance for residents with known or suspected COVID-19:**

Recommended PPE for HCP when caring for residents with known or suspected COVID-19: use COVID-19 isolation precautions (PPE includes gown, gloves, eye protection, and N95 respirator. Use N95 respirator when providing care to COVID-19 positive and unknown).

#### **Guidance for new admissions and readmissions:**

Residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 and who have not completed their isolation should be isolated using COVID-19 isolation precautions for 14 days after initial admission or readmission to a long-term care facility.

Residents with unknown COVID-19 status should be quarantined in their rooms using COVID-19 isolation precautions for 14 days after admission or readmission to a long-term care facility from an acute care facility.

#### **Guidance for nursing home onset/outbreak of COVID-19**

During facility onset/outbreak status (resident became positive after 14 days in the facility or a health care worker in the facility tested positive) HCP should wear all recommended PPE for COVID-19 isolation precautions for the care of **all** residents, regardless of presence of symptoms. Facilities may implement protocols for extended use of eye protection and facemasks. This should continue until the facility has had no new COVID-19 cases for 14 days.

*The Disaster Ready Emergency Preparedness Infection Control (DR EPIC) program provides education and technical assistance for skilled nursing providers throughout the state. Individual providers will need to exercise their independent discretion in how to apply this information and technical assistance to the unique operation of each facility. For that reason, a facility's exercise of its professional judgment and due diligence in utilizing the program for infection control and risk management practices is solely within the facility's control for which it is entirely responsible.*

**Guidance for residents requiring out-of-facility appointments:**

During substantial and moderate community spread residents who leave the facility for outside appointments should be classified as COVID-19 unknown and are required to be quarantined for 14 days following the appointment. HCP should use COVID-19 isolation precautions when caring for these residents.

**Guidance for optimizing PPE:**

If HCP must wear the same respirator or surgical facemask and eye protection for the care of more than one resident (e.g., for an entire shift), HCP should perform hand hygiene immediately before and after contact to prevent contaminating themselves or others. Hand hygiene should also occur each time the facemask or face shield is touched as the items become contaminated. Facilities should develop a procedure to decontaminate reusable PPE such as face shields and goggles.

On units with COVID-19 unknown/quarantine/isolation, a staff member may reuse a gown (if not soiled) when caring for the same resident if they doff it before exiting the patient room and hang it up. Each staff needs to wear their own gown. Gloves can never be reused.

**References:**

\*\* COVID-19 isolation precautions: (PPE includes gown, gloves, eye protection, and a surgical facemask. Use N95 respirator when providing care to COVID-19 positive and unknown. Use face mask if **no** COVID-19 positive or unknown residents are in the facility.)

Specific CDC Guidance for Nursing Homes: [Source Control Measures CDC](#)

CDC Guidance on donning and doffing PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>

Governor's executive order 2020-22: [Governor's Executive Order 2020-22](#)

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