

Camden & Islington Public Health

ISLINGTON: Guidance on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Nursery, Early Years (EY) settings and staff looking after children with Special Education Needs (SEN)

VERSION 1.3

19 May 2020

(Updated with new COVID-19 case definition)

If you have questions relating to this guidance please contact Public Health:

CIPHAdmin@islington.gov.uk

This guidance contains

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1 About this guidance

This local guidance does not replace national guidance. Local guidance has been produced to facilitate the interpretation and application of national guidance to specific local services and situations, taking full account of national guidance and evidence.

This guidance is intended for use by:

- **Staff at nurseries and Early Years settings in Islington.**
- **Staff looking after children with special educational needs in Islington**

It is intended for use alongside the local PPE Guidance, which sets out when to use PPE outside of nursery/EY/SEN settings.

We will keep this guidance under constant review in light of the evolving COVID-19 situation and changes to national guidance.

There is a limited national supply of PPE and it is very important that we use this responsibly so that there is enough PPE for the highest risk situations through the course of this pandemic. The Public Health Team has developed guidance on PPE for the Council and its providers which is in line with the national advice that PPE should be worn only for close contact if clients/patients are showing symptoms.

However, we recognise that nursery staff and those looking after children with SEN will have particularly close contact during nappy changing and feeding; it is difficult to apply social distancing in these settings. We also know that, while parents should not be sending children into nurseries if children are showing symptoms of COVID-19, children may develop symptoms during the day and will still need to be looked after. **In recognition of this, the Council has agreed to provide additional PPE for nursery workers to wear ONLY for the higher risk activities defined below.**

Please help us to be able to maintain a supply of PPE to you and other frontline staff by using the PPE only where it is recommended.

2 When is PPE not necessary?

PPE to protect against COVID-19 is NOT necessary when:

- Staff are able to remain a safe distance of 2 metres away from a child (even if the child does have symptoms of COVID-19).
- Staff are not undertaking one of the higher risk activities defined in detail below (i.e. nappy changing/ feeding/ looking after a child who developed COVID-19 symptoms while on site).
- Cleaning public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- A **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A **loss of or change in your sense of smell or taste**

Face masks play a very important role in clinical and care settings such as hospitals and care homes but there's **very little evidence of widespread benefit from their use outside of these health and care settings**. There is no need to wear face masks while in public places.

Normal good hand hygiene practices should always be maintained through handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds (or using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water is not available).

3 When to use PPE in a nursery or EY settings and for staff looking after children with SEN

Staff should **only use personal protective equipment (PPE) when it is needed**. There are currently limited supplies of PPE, and it is essential that supplies are used appropriately to ensure they remain available for essential situations.

Activities that require PPE include:

Activity	Circumstances in which PPE is required	What to use?
Staff looking after babies	<p><u>ONLY when staff are doing the following high risk activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nappy changing • Feeding babies when held in the arms of the staff member • Looking after a baby symptoms of coronavirus while waiting for the parents to collect them 	<p><u>Aprons</u> (change after every nappy)</p> <p><u>Gloves</u> (change after every nappy)</p> <p><u>Fluid repellent surgical masks</u> (change after each session of care – see section 5 below).</p>

Activity	Circumstances in which PPE is required	What to use?
Staff looking after children with SEN	<p><u>ONLY when staff are doing the following high risk activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nappy changing • Manual handling of a child • Looking after a child with symptoms of coronavirus while waiting for the parents to collect them 	<p><u>Aprons</u> (change after every nappy)</p> <p><u>Gloves</u> (change after every nappy)</p> <p><u>Fluid repellent surgical masks</u> (change after each session of care – see section 5 below).</p> <p>If there is risk of spitting, then <u>eye protection</u> will minimise risk.</p>
Cleaning (for non-healthcare settings)	<p><u>Staff cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed COVID-19 has spent significant time</u> (for example, where unwell individuals have slept or sat for several hours) or there is visible contamination with body fluids.</p> <p>N.B. PPE is NOT needed for cleaning public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors – these can be cleaned as normal. The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning these areas is disposable gloves and an apron.</p> <p>The full guidance on cleaning in non-clinical settings is available here: Cleaning in non-healthcare settings.</p>	<p><u>Aprons</u></p> <p><u>Gloves</u></p> <p><u>Fluid repellent surgical masks</u></p> <p><u>Eye Protection</u></p>

5 How to use PPE safely

Safe working practices are needed when using PPE for people to protect themselves and limit the spread of infection.

Hand washing is required before PPE is put on AND during the removal of PPE as per instructions below.

Staff should be trained on putting on and taking off PPE (see instructions and video link below).

An [update](#) to national guidance on use of PPE was published by the Government on 2 April and sets out that masks and eye protection are now subject to 'sessional use' whereas gloves and aprons remain single use items. What this means in practice is set out below:

- **Masks: Staff can wear the same face mask for the whole of a 'session of care' (e.g. when changing several nappies in a row OR feeding several babies in a row OR when keeping the mask on without taking it off during a range of activities). The duration of a single session in a mask will vary.** Once the mask has been removed it should be disposed of safely. PPE should not be subject to continued use if damaged, soiled, compromised or uncomfortable. **PPE should not be re-used once it has been taken off.**

- Eye protection (if needed for cleaning. For when to use - see above). The same principles of sessional use described for masks above apply to eye protection.
- Aprons and gloves are subject to single use as per Standard Infection Control Precautions, with disposal and hand hygiene after contact with individual children.

Putting on PPE safely: (see **section 7.2** for poster and video below)

PPE is required for all possible or confirmed COVID-19 patients. You should wash your hands before putting this on, and put it on in the following order:

1. disposable apron
2. fluid repellent surgical mask
3. eye protection if risk of splashing to the face or eyes
4. disposable gloves

Removing PPE safely: (see **section 7.2** for poster)

It is important that the PPE is removed in an order that minimises the potential for cross-contamination. Hand decontamination helps to prevent the spread of infection - use alcohol hand rub between removing items of PPE. PPE should be removed in the following order:

1. disposable gloves
2. hand decontamination
3. disposable apron
4. eye protection (if worn)
5. hand decontamination
6. fluid repellent surgical mask
7. hand decontamination: wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

Disposing of PPE:

- It is essential that personal protective equipment is stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.
- Rubbish bags can be disposed of with other clinical waste.

6 Where to obtain PPE, and how to deal with supply issues?

- Supplies will be co-ordinated for Children's centrally each week
- Council services will identify officers who will be responsible for collating requests for PPE. The contact for Early Years and Childcare will be Julia Bleet.
- The council will endeavour to support commissioned services to obtain PPE, however it cannot guarantee supply. Providers are encouraged to continue to seek their own sources of PPE and to be sure to use existing supplies of any items that they have in stock.
- Further information about collection and delivery arrangements can be obtained via Julia Bleet as these become available
- Speak with the Julia Bleet, julia.bleet@islington.gov.uk if you are unsure how to access this.

7 Useful resources: government guidance, PPE flowchart and posters

The following resources can be accessed by the links below and are also included at the end of this document:

7.1 Posters & video

- Poster: Putting on PPE (also available [here](#))
- Poster: Taking off PPE (also available [here](#))
- Video: [Putting on and taking off PPE](#)

7.2 Related guidance

- Islington Guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in response to COVID-19 (1 April 2020)
- Camden and Islington Public Health guidance for schools and early years settings which remain open (3 April 2020)
- [Cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#)
- [Guidance for educational settings](#)



Putting on personal protective equipment (PPE) for non-aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)*

Please see donning and doffing video to support this guidance: <https://youtu.be/eANIs-Jdi2s>

Pre-donning instructions:

- Ensure healthcare worker hydrated
- Tie hair back
- Remove jewellery
- Check PPE in the correct size is available

- 1** Perform hand hygiene before putting on PPE.



- 2** Put on apron and tie at waist.



- 3** Put on facemask – position upper straps on the crown of your head, lower strap at nape of neck.



- 4** With both hands, mould the metal strap over the bridge of your nose.



- 5** Don eye protection if required.



- 6** Put on gloves.



*For the PPE guide for AGPs please see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control



Taking off personal protective equipment (PPE) for non-aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)*

Please see donning and doffing video to support this guidance: <https://youtu.be/eANIs-Jdi2s>

• PPE should be removed in an order that minimises the risk of self-contamination

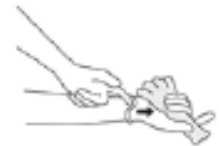
• Gloves, aprons (and eye protection if used) should be taken off in the patient's room or cohort area

1 Remove gloves. Grasp the outside of glove with the opposite gloved hand; peel off.
Hold the removed glove in the remaining gloved hand.



Slide the fingers of the un-gloved hand under the remaining glove at the wrist.

Peel the remaining glove off over the first glove and discard.



2 Clean hands.



3 Apron.
Unfasten or break apron ties at the neck and let the apron fold down on itself.



Break ties at waist and fold apron in on itself – do not touch the outside – **this will be contaminated.** Discard.



4 Remove eye protection if worn.
Use both hands to handle the straps by pulling away from face and discard.



5 Clean hands.



6 Remove facemask once your clinical work is completed.
Untie or break bottom ties, followed by top ties or elastic, and remove by handling the ties only. Lean forward slightly. Discard. **DO NOT** reuse once removed.



7 Clean hands with soap and water.



*For the doffing guide to PPE for AGPs see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control