

COVID -19: PPE in schools

Work activities even when you cannot maintain a social distance of 2 metres e.g. supervision activities, teaching. Where pupils are non-symptomatic.

PPE	Explanation
Disposable gloves ✘	Not required
Disposable Plastic Apron ✘	Not required
Fluid repellent surgical mask ✘	Not required
Eye Protection ✘	Not required
Face Coverings - during National Restrictions	In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors in corridors and other communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

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When providing personal or intimate care, requires you to be in direct contact with the pupil or caring for children who regularly spit e.g. touching (feeding, dressing, bathing, toileting, assisting in and out of hoist or chair, providing first aid treatment) where pupils are non-symptomatic.

These recommendations assume that staff are not undertaking aerosol generating procedures (AGP's)

PPE	Explanation
Disposable gloves ✓	Existing routine use.
Disposable Plastic Apron ✓	Existing routine use.
Fluid repellent surgical mask (Type IIR) ✓	Existing routine use, during periods of national restrictions or when advised as part of local restrictions. You should remove and dispose of the mask if it becomes damaged, soiled, damp or uncomfortable. You may need to change your mask more often in hot weather.
Eye Protection	May be needed for where there is risk of fluids entering the eyes e.g. when undertaking prolonged tasks near pupils or staff who are repeatedly coughing, spitting or vomiting). Use of eye protection should be discussed with your manager.
Remember	PPE is only effective when combined with hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and avoiding touching your face with your hands, and follow standard infection prevention and control precautions.

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When carrying out **aerosol generating procedures (AGP's)**. This applies whether the pupil has symptoms or not and includes those in the “extremely vulnerable” group.

PPE	Explanation
Disposable gloves ✓	Single use
Long sleeved disposable fluid repellent gown ✓	Single use
FFP3 Respirator ✓	<p>You should remove and dispose of the mask if it becomes damaged, soiled, damp or uncomfortable. You may need to change or decontaminate your mask more often in hot weather.</p> <p>Important note: Users must pass a face fit test for that FFP3 respirator model before it can be used. Face fit testing is available from the HSW Service. Contact shss@staffordshire.gov.uk to arrange.</p>
Eye Protection – Full face visor ✓	Dispose or decontaminate reusable items following completion of procedure.

Settings should be supported by local partners to review and build on existing risk assessments. This will allow the setting to consider any adaptations that they may need, for example, designating a room for undertaking AGPs, or if within a classroom, making sure that all other staff, children, young people and learners are at least 2 metres distance away (as recommended by [infection prevention and control](#) guidance and the system of controls [set out in sections 1 to 8](#)) with a window opened for ventilation.

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When caring for someone (pupils or a member of staff) with symptoms of COVID-19 and **need direct contact** until they return home.

PPE	Explanation
Disposable gloves ✓	Single use
Disposable Plastic Apron ✓	Single use
Fluid repellent surgical mask (Type IIR) ✓	Can be used continuously while providing care, unless you need to remove the mask from your face (e.g. to drink, eat, take a break from duties). The mask is worn to protect you., You should remove and dispose of the mask if it becomes damaged, soiled, damp or uncomfortable. You may need to change your mask more often in hot weather.
Eye Protection	May be needed for where there is risk of fluids entering the eyes e.g. when undertaking prolonged tasks near pupils or staff who are repeatedly coughing, spitting or vomiting). Use of eye protection should be discussed with your manager.
Remember	PPE is only effective when combined with hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and avoiding touching your face with your hands, and follow standard infection prevention and control precautions.

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Infection Control

All staff should have infection prevention and control training that includes:

- Hand and respiratory hygiene,
- Use of personal protective equipment, donning and doffing procedure,
- Cleaning and decontamination,
- Waste disposal,
- Dealing with body fluid spillages and sharps injuries,
- Caring for a pupil or member of staff who develops possible COVID-19 symptoms whilst at school.

Disposal of PPE

Used PPE can be placed in a refuse bag and disposed of as normal waste unless the wearer has symptoms of COVID-19.

People with symptoms of COVID-19

Dispose as clinical waste where available or double bag and tie.

Bags should be kept in a secure location for 72 hours before disposal as normal rubbish.

It is recommended that you have date labels for the disposal of PPE to ensure that the 72 hour period is managed effectively.

Remember:

PPE is only effective when combined with hand hygiene. Please wash hands regularly and before and after using PPE. Where access to soap and water is not available then hand sanitiser should be used.

Hand Rub Poster

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877529/Best_Practice_hand_rub.pdf

Hand Wash Poster

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877530/Best_Practice_hand_wash.pdf

Guidance on Donning and Doffing PPE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GncQ_ed-9w&feature=youtu.be

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