

Recommended PPE for ambulance staff, paramedics, other patient transport services and pharmacy staff

Setting	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid-repellent coverall/gown	Surgical mask	Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask	Filtering face piece respirator	Eye/face protection ¹
Ambulance staff/paramedic/pre-hospital critical care/Helicopter Emergency Medical Service/hospital transport services	Performing an aerosol generating procedure e.g. intubation, suctioning ^{2,8} on a possible or confirmed case(s) ³	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✗	✓ single use ²	✓ single use ⁴
	Direct patient care –possible or confirmed case(s) ³ (within 2 metres)	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✗	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single use ⁴
	Driver conveying possible or confirmed case(s) ³ in vehicle with a bulkhead, no anticipated direct care ⁷	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Driver conveying possible or confirmed case(s) ³ in vehicle without a bulkhead, no direct patient care and within 2 metres ⁷	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}	✗	✗
Pharmacy staff/workers	Working in an area with possible or confirmed case(s) ³ and unable to maintain 2 metres social distance ⁶	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓ sessional use ⁵	✗	✗
	Working in an area with possible or confirmed case(s) ³ and able to maintain social distancing	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Table 3

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.
2. The list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is included in section 8.1 at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe. (Note APGs are undergoing a further review at present)
3. A case is any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases/investigation-and-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection>
4. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).
5. A single session refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round; providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
6. Non clinical staff should maintain 2m social distancing, through marking out a controlled distance; sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of community cases.
7. In communal waiting areas and during transportation, it is recommended that suspected or confirmed cases wear a surgical face mask if this can be tolerated. The aim of this is to minimise the dispersal of respiratory secretions, reduce both direct transmission risk and environmental contamination. A surgical facemask should not be worn by patients if there is potential for their clinical care to be compromised (e.g. when receiving oxygen therapy).
8. Ambulance staff conveying patients are not required to change or upgrade PPE for the purposes of patient handover.

