

ALERT LEVEL 2: Personal protective equipment (PPE) for community care providers who are providing care in people’s place of residence

When caring for a **probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, or someone who meets the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) Criteria**¹, please follow Table 1.

If you **do not know someone’s COVID-19 status** - prior to contact with them (by phone) or while maintaining physical distancing of at least 1 m ask them the risk assessment questions outlined in: *Alert*

*Level 2: Risk assessment questions if COVID-19 status is unknown.*²

The **risk assessment** will help you determine appropriate PPE for initial contact with people.

No matter what a person’s COVID-19 status is, follow Standard Precautions³ for all care and refer to your organisational IPC guidance.

Table 1: When caring for someone who is a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, or meets the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) Criteria¹













	 Hand Hygiene ⁴	 Surgical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask	 Eye Protection ⁶	 Gloves	 Fluid-resistant long sleeve gown
Providing care	✓	✓	✗ ⁵	✓	✓	✓

Table 2: When caring for someone who is not a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, and does not meet the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) Criteria¹

	 Hand Hygiene ⁴	 Surgical Mask	 N95/P2 Mask	 Eye Protection ⁶	 Gloves	 Fluid-resistant long sleeve gown
Providing care not involving contact with blood or body fluids	✓	✓	✗ ⁵	✗	✗	✗
Providing care that may involve exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions	✓	After risk assessment ² identifies there is a risk and it’s not possible to maintain physical distancing of 1 m wear a mask. ⁷	✗ ⁵	Standard Precautions should be used for all patient care activities. This means wearing PPE based on your risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions. For more information on Standard Precautions, see <i>Frequently Asked Questions about PPE</i> . ³		

Please refer to guidance on how to safely put on, take off and dispose of PPE: www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health

- As per case definition: www.health.govt.nz/covid19-case-definition
- www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health
- Frequently Asked Questions about PPE*, available at www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health
- Perform hand hygiene according to the 5 moments for hand hygiene www.handhygiene.org.nz
- N95/P2 mask should only be used if aerosol generating procedures are performed
- Face shield or goggles. Prescription glasses are not classed as eye protection. Remember to clean reusable eye protection between uses
- This includes people who have new or worsening respiratory symptoms or who, in the last 14 days, have travelled overseas (except those working on an international aircraft or shipping vessel, unless they have been asked to self-isolate) or are a close contact of a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case or the patient/client is at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (as per www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-health-advice-general-public).