

PRESENTATION 2, Part 1

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Refresher for School and Childcare Settings

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Objectives

- To provide an overview of personal protective equipment (PPE).

What is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

- PPE is equipment worn to protect the wearer from exposure to potential infection. PPE in a school/childcare setting includes:
 - A medical mask (e.g. surgical, procedural) to protect the inside of the nose and mouth
 - Eye protection to protect the eyes from splashes, sprays and droplets
- And in specific situations for specific tasks:
 - A gown to protect clothing from contamination when student is ill.
 - Gloves to protect the hands from contact with body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated environmental surfaces when student is ill; and for cleaning purposes as per manufacturer's instructions.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary (K-12) schools: infection prevention and control (IPAC) overview [Webinar]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [presented 2020 Oct 21; cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2020/covid-19-ipac-preparedness-prevention-k-12-oct-21.pdf?la=en>

Masks



When Should I Use A Mask?



- Must be worn indoors (unless eating) regardless of the ability to maintain physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) of others; includes when near work colleagues.
- Must be worn outdoors when physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) cannot be maintained.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary (K-12) schools: infection prevention and control (IPAC) overview [Webinar]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [presented 2020 Oct 21; cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2020/covid-19-ipac-preparedness-prevention-k-12-oct-21.pdf?la=en>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): cold weather tips for schools [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/sch/2020/12/factsheet-covid-19-cold-weather-tips-schools.pdf?la=en>

Can Cloth Masks, Neck Warmers/Gaiters be Worn Outside, Instead of Medical Masks?

- No, neck warmers or scarves cannot be worn in place of masks because they do not form a seal around the nose and mouth and may not be made of the recommended material.
- All staff are provided with medical masks for the purposes of both PPE and source control.

Ontario. Ministry of Education. Guide to reopening Ontario's schools [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [updated 2021 Mar 2; cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/guide-reopening-ontarios-schools>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): cold weather tips for schools [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/sch/2020/12/factsheet-covid-19-cold-weather-tips-schools.pdf?la=en>

Eye Protection



What Is Eye Protection?

Eye protection protects the eyes from splashes, sprays and droplets (i.e. to protect the eyes in case a student/child coughs or sneezes unexpectedly).



When Should I Wear Eye Protection?

- Eye protection is intended as an additional layer of protection during close contact (i.e. within 2 metres/6 feet) with students and children, especially when sprays or splashes are anticipated e.g. coughs or sneezes.
- According to the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC), eye protection includes safety goggles, face shields, or visors attached to masks and some safety glasses.
- Prescription eye glasses alone are not acceptable eye protection.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Routine practices and additional precautions in all health care settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2012. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2012/bp-rpap-healthcare-settings.pdf?la=en>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary (K-12) schools: infection prevention and control (IPAC) overview [Webinar]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [presented 2020 Oct 21; cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2020/covid-19-ipac-preparedness-prevention-k-12-oct-21.pdf?la=en>

Ontario. Ministry of Education. Operational guidance for child care during COVID-19 outbreak [Internet]. Version 5. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021 [cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/child-care-guide-child-care.pdf>

Gowns and Gloves



When Should I Wear Gloves and Gowns?

- Gloves and gowns are not part of the standard PPE for schools and childcare settings.
 - Gloves are not needed if touching frequently touched surfaces (e.g., elevator buttons and door handles).
- Gloves and gowns should be used for specific tasks only:
 - in instances where staff may be exposed to bodily fluids, secretions and excretions, such as when providing care to an ill student
 - where required by a manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting products
- Wear gloves for as short a time as possible, to reduce hand irritation.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Frequently asked questions: Schools and COVID-19. [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021 [cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/sch/2020/12/covid-19-faq-schools.pdf?la=en>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): how to prevent skin damage from cleaning products [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/10/factsheet-covid-19-preventing-skin-damage.pdf?la=en>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Best practices for hand hygiene in all health care settings. 4th ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2014. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2014/bp-hand-hygiene.pdf?la=en>

Gloves: Points To Remember



- Inspect gloves before putting them on to ensure there are no cuts or tears.
- Hand hygiene is to be performed before putting on and after removing gloves.
- Gloves are to be single use and discarded after use.
- Do not apply ABHR to the outside of gloves.
- No double-gloving.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary (K-12) schools: infection prevention and control (IPAC) overview [Webinar]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [presented 2020 Oct 21; cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2020/covid-19-ipac-preparedness-prevention-k-12-oct-21.pdf?la=en>

Gowns: Points To Remember



- Gowns should have long sleeves with cuffs for providing direct care to an ill student or child when your skin or clothing may come into contact with the student or contaminated environment.
- Gown should tie at the back.
- Can be washable or disposable.
- Gowns should be removed carefully in a manner that prevents self-contamination.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary (K-12) schools: infection prevention and control (IPAC) overview [Webinar]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [presented 2020 Oct 21; cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2020/covid-19-ipac-preparedness-prevention-k-12-oct-21.pdf?la=en>

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19: Personal protective equipment (ppe) and non-medical masks in congregate living settings [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 5]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/cong/2020/06/covid-19-ppe-non-medical-masks-congregate-living-settings.pdf?la=en>

For More Information ...

Public Health Ontario resources:

- [Public Health Ontario – Schools and COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) Overview](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Fundamentals](#)
- [How to Clean your Hands with Soap and Water or Alcohol-based Hand Rub](#)
- [Putting on/taking off PPE](#)
- [When and How to Wear a Mask: Recommendations for the General Public](#)
- [Cold Weather Tips for Schools](#)
- [Checklist: COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary \(K-12\) Schools](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Tips for Children Attending School](#)

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