

PRESENTATION 2, Part 1

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

Public Health Ontario

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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, when indicated, 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/child is ill
 - Gloves to protect the hands from contact with body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated environmental surfaces when student/child is ill; and for cleaning purposes as per manufacturer's instructions.

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.
- Outdoor masking should follow local public health guidance and can be considered when physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) cannot be maintained.

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

- No, neck warmers/gaiters 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. COVID-19: health, safety and operational guidance for schools (2021-2022) [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021 [modified 2021 Aug 3; cited 2021 Aug 13]. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-health-safety-and-operational-guidance-schools-2021-2022>

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 Eye Protection Be Considered?

- Eye protection is intended as an additional layer of protection during close contact (i.e. within 2 metres/6 feet) with students, children, or staff members who are not wearing a mask.
- 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. Ministry of Education. Operational guidance for child care during COVID-19 outbreak [Internet]. Version 7. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 13]. Available from: <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-operational-guidance-child-care-during-covid-19-en-2021-08-10.pdf>

Ontario. Ministry of Education. COVID-19: health, safety and operational guidance for schools (2021-2022) [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021 [modified 2021 Aug 3; cited 2021 Aug 13]. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-health-safety-and-operational-guidance-schools-2021-2022>

Gowns and Gloves



When Should I Wear Gloves and Gowns?

- Gloves and gowns are not part of the standard PPE for school 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). 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.

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: 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:

- [COVID-19 - Schools and Related Settings](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Fundamentals](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): How to wash your hands / How to use hand sanitizer](#)
- [Removing Personal Protective Equipment / Putting On Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [Checklist: COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary \(K-12\) Schools](#)
- [Preventing COVID-19: Tips for Children Attending School](#)
- [How to Protect Yourself from COVID-19](#)
- [Masks for Source Control in Non-Healthcare Workers](#)

How Did We Do?



PHO would appreciate your thoughts on these presentations.

Please visit PHO's school resources webpage to access and complete a short survey.

For More Information About This Presentation, Contact:

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