Presentations for Schools and Child Care Settings: **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Overview**

Transcript: Presentation 2 (part 1) of 6
This presentation is intended to be a refresher on personal protective equipment also referred to as PPE for those working in school and childcare settings.
This document was developed by Public Health Ontario (PHO). PHO provides scientific and technical advice to Ontario’s government, public health organizations and health care providers. PHO’s work is guided by the current best available evidence at the time of publication. The intended audience for this document includes those working in a school or child care setting.

PHO does not develop or approve public health policy or directives, including directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) pursuant to the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

The application and use of this document is the responsibility of the user. PHO assumes no liability resulting from any such application or use. This document may be reproduced without permission for non-commercial purposes only and provided that appropriate credit is given to PHO. No changes and/or modifications may be made to this document without express written permission from PHO.
Objectives

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

The objective for this presentation is to review why and when to use personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
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.

Personal protective equipment or PPE is the term used to describe equipment worn to protect the person wearing it. It refers to medical masks (also often referred to as surgical/procedure masks), eye protection, such as face shields and can include depending on the situation, gloves and gowns. For presentation purposes, we will refer to surgical/procedure masks, as medical masks.

It is important to remember to clean one’s hands (also referred to as hand hygiene) as part of putting on and taking off PPE. Note, gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene and there is no need to wear gloves all the time.

PPE should always be changed when it becomes damp, dirty or torn. PPE is also worn by cleaning staff based on manufacturer’s instructions. Close contact is as a driver of COVID-19 transmission. A multi-layer approach to prevention of transmission of COVID-19, is important; use of PPE is one of these measures.
This next section looks at 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.

When should you wear a mask? You must wear a mask indoors regardless of the ability to maintain physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) of others; including work colleagues. A mask must be worn outdoors where physical distancing (i.e. 2 metres) between yourself and others cannot be maintained.
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.

Can Cloth Masks, Neck Warmers/Gaiters be Worn Outside, Instead of Medical Masks? Neck warmers or gaiters, or similar, are not recommended as these are not considered to be as effective for source control and are not to be worn when the use of a medical mask is indicated. Neck warmers may be worn for additional warmth in cold weather, but should not be worn in place of a medical mask.
The following section reviews eye protection.
Slide 9

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).

Eye protection protect the eyes from splashes, sprays and droplets (i.e. to protect the eyes in case a student/child coughs or sneezes unexpectedly). Some examples are goggles and face shields.
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.

When should you wear eye protection? Eye protection, such as face shields is intended to add an additional layer of protection during close contact with children when sprays/splashes are anticipated e.g. coughs/sneezes. 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.
The next section reviews the use of 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.

Gloves and gowns are not part of the routine 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.
A few points to remember regarding glove use:

- clean your hands before putting on gloves and after removing them
- throw them away after using
- do not put ABHR/hand sanitizer on the outside of the gloves
- hands are often contaminated when a person tries to remove the gloves. Therefore hand hygiene after removing gloves is very important

Hand hygiene is to be performed before gloves are put on and immediately after they are removed.

Do not apply ABHR to gloves – affects integrity of the gloves
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.

A few points to remember regarding the use of gowns:

- Gowns should have long sleeves with cuffs for direct care when your skin or clothing may come into contact with the child or student.
- It should tie at the back, and if disposable, should be thrown away after each use.
- When removing the gown, starting at the neck ties, pull the outer, ‘contaminated’, side of the gown forward and turn inward, rolling off your arms into a bundle, then immediately discard in a way that minimizes air disturbance.
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

If you would like more information, please see the list of resources here.
How Did We Do?

Your feedback is important to us. Please provide your input by clicking on the survey button. Thank you!

Survey

PHO would appreciate your thoughts on these refresher presentations. Please visit PHO’s school resources webpage to access and complete a short survey.
For More Information About This Presentation, Contact:

communications@oahpp.ca

Public Health Ontario keeps Ontarians safe and healthy. Find out more at PublicHealthOntario.ca

If you have questions, please email communications@oahpp.ca. Thank you!