



**COMMUNITY NURSING REGISTRY OF OTTAWA
CLINICAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**

SECTION: CLINICAL POLICIES		COVID 19 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
Date Issued: 02/2021		

BACKGROUND

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in healthcare is part of the universal precautions designed to decrease the risk of contracting and spreading healthcare related infections for healthcare providers, patients and their families. The application of PPE for contact and droplet precautions is generally worn when there is a known or suspected infection present.

In the current situation of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the increase of community spread, these guidelines have been enhanced to reduce the potential community spread that is occurring equally with people who are symptomatic as well as asymptomatic.

PURPOSE

The intent of this policy is to incorporate the PPE guidelines set out by the Public Health Agency of Canada and Public Health Ontario into the standard practices of CNRO members working in the Community and reduce the risk that an asymptomatic member will expose a client to COVID-19 and vice versa.

POLICY

1. All CNRO members will wear a medical grade procedure mask at all times during a client visit. Masks may be worn for up to 4 hours. Hand hygiene is to be performed before and after applying PPE.
2. Face shields or eye protection will be worn when within 2 metres of an unmasked patient.
3. Face shields or eye protection will be worn during aerosolizing procedures (open tracheal suctioning, BIPAP, Insufflation/Exsufflation) for patients where COVID 19 is not suspected and the point of care screening does not identify any other risks.
4. Members working shifts will identify a cool zone that is a minimum of 2 meters away from the patient where their PPE can be safely removed for meal breaks.
5. Masks and eye protection will be worn during report from one shift to the next when a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained due to physical space restrictions or the need to review the chart during report.
6. Droplet and contact precautions will be applied for all patients where COVID-19 is suspected or in the event of an exposure. Droplet and contact precautions will remain in place until notified by Public Health.
7. Full PPE including N95 respirators will be used during aerosolizing procedures for patients with suspected or diagnosed COVID 19.

REFERENCES

Infection prevention and control for COVID-19: Interim guidance for home care settings. Government of Canada (2020). https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/infection-prevention-control-covid-19-interim-guidance-home-care-settings.html#s6_4

COVID-19 Guidance: Home and Community Care Providers. Province of Ontario (2020) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_home_community_care_guidance.pdf