## COVID-19 PPE and Source Control Grids

### FOR CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS, BY COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVEL

4 / 7 / 2022

Settings include, but are not limited to, long-term care (nursing home and assisted living); home care; hospice; intermediate care facilities for intellectually disabled persons (ICF/ID); independent living; and other congregate care types of facilities.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grid for Health Care Workers/Direct Service Providers**  
(i.e., includes employees, contractors, volunteers, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community transmission level¹</th>
<th>Working with residents/clients WITH suspected² or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection</th>
<th>Working with residents/clients WITHOUT suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>gown; gloves; eye protection; N95 or higher level respirator</td>
<td>face mask² (source control) and eye protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial</td>
<td>gown; gloves; eye protection; N95 or higher level respirator</td>
<td>face mask² (source control) and eye protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate⁴</td>
<td>gown; gloves; eye protection; N95 or higher level respirator</td>
<td>face mask (source control)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low⁴</td>
<td>gown; gloves; eye protection; N95 or higher level respirator</td>
<td>face mask (source control)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID Data Tracker: COVID-19 Integrated County View**  
   (covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view).

2. Suspected includes people in transmission-based precautions (i.e., quarantine).

3. N95 (equivalent or higher level) respirator recommended for aerosol-generating procedures for all residents/clients in communities with substantial and high transmission levels.

4. During low to moderate community transmission, health care workers who are up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses could choose not to wear source control PPE or to physically distance when they are in well-defined areas that are restricted from resident/client access (e.g., staff meeting rooms, kitchen). They should wear source control PPE when they are in areas of the health care facility where they could encounter residents/clients (e.g., dining room, common halls/corridors).
COVID-19 Source Control Grid for Residents/ Clients/ Visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community transmission level</th>
<th>Residents/ clients up to date on vaccination</th>
<th>Residents/ clients NOT up to date on vaccination</th>
<th>Visitors up to date on vaccination</th>
<th>Visitors NOT up to date on vaccination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>see footnotes&lt;sup&gt;2,3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>see footnotes&lt;sup&gt;2,3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>see footnotes&lt;sup&gt;2,3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>see footnotes&lt;sup&gt;2,3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2. During an outbreak response, residents/ clients/ visitors should wear well-fitting face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident’s room.

3. In areas of low to moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks and to physically distance, particularly if either of them is at increased risk for severe disease or are not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Residents, regardless of vaccination status, can choose not to wear face coverings or masks when other residents are not present and to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor. Residents (or their representative) and their visitors, who are not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, should be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit.


**Guidance**

Follow applicable PPE guidance:


CDC: Infection Control Basics (www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/index.html)

Definitions

Isolation: when people who are infected with a contagious disease are separated from others.

Quarantine: when the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease is restricted and they are separated from others while waiting to see if they become infected.

Transmission-based precautions: infection prevention and control measures used when clients/residents with known or suspected infection are separated from others. Transmission-based precautions are used in both isolation and quarantine. Refer to CDC: Transmission-Based Precautions (www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html).

Eye protection: goggles or a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face.

Face mask: OSHA defines face masks as “a surgical, medical procedure, dental, or isolation mask that is FDA-cleared, authorized by an FDA emergency use authorization, or offered or distributed as described in an FDA enforcement policy.” Face masks may also be referred to as “medical procedure masks.” Face masks should be used according to product labeling and local, state, and federal requirements. FDA-cleared surgical masks are designed to protect against splashes and sprays and are prioritized for use when such exposures are anticipated, including surgical procedures. Other face masks, such as some procedure masks that are typically used for isolation purposes, may not provide protection against splashes and sprays.

Respirator: personal protective device that is worn on the face, covers at least the nose and mouth, and is used to reduce the wearer’s risk of inhaling hazardous airborne particles (including dust particles and infectious agents), gases, or vapors. Respirators are certified by CDC/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), including those intended for use in health care.

Source control: using respirators, well-fitting face masks, or well-fitting cloth masks to cover a person’s mouth and nose to prevent spread of respiratory secretions when they are breathing, talking, sneezing, or coughing. Source control devices should not be placed on children under age 2; anyone who cannot wear one safely, such as someone who has a disability or an underlying medical condition that precludes wearing one safely; or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove their source control device without assistance. Face shields alone are not recommended for source control.

Cloth mask: textile (cloth) covers that are intended primarily for source control in the community. They are not PPE appropriate for use by health care personnel. For guidance on design, use, and maintenance of cloth masks, refer to CDC: Masks (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html).

Up to date on vaccination: receiving all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including booster dose(s) when eligible. Refer to CDC: Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html).