



# COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grid for Correctional Settings

Interim Guidance on the Use of Source Control and PPE in a Correctional Setting<sup>1</sup>

8/23/2021

What to wear if you are a:	Cloth mask <sup>2</sup>	Medical-grade facemask <sup>3</sup>	N95 respirator	Eye protection	Gown	Gloves	Hand hygiene
Incarcerated or detained person (IDP) who is asymptomatic and is not known to have been exposed to COVID-19, when outside of cell or room	X						X
IDP who is COVID-19 positive or symptomatic with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, when outside of cell or room		X					X
IDP who is quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure, when outside of cell or room		X					X
Staff, volunteer, or work visitor who works in areas with asymptomatic staff or IDP not in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19	X	X <sup>4</sup>		X <sup>4</sup>			X
Staff, volunteer, or work visitor with potential for close contact with IDP in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19			X	X	X	X	X
Social visitor who is visiting asymptomatic staff or IDP	X						X

<sup>1</sup> Facility should perform a risk assessment to determine whether use of personal protective equipment presents a safety risk and should modify recommendations as needed.

<sup>2</sup> Well-fitting cloth masks are used for source control, not personal protective equipment. If medical masks are in ample supply, they can be used in place of cloth facemasks. [CDC: Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/mask-fit-and-filtration.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/mask-fit-and-filtration.html).

<sup>3</sup> Medical-grade facemasks are used as personal protective equipment. If shortage, facemasks should be prioritized for staff and then for residents with COVID-19.

<sup>4</sup> When community transmission is moderate to substantial OR if there is moderate to widespread facility transmission, it is recommended that personal protective equipment is used in areas where physical distancing is not possible or where close contact may be anticipated. Transmission levels are described in [Interim Guidance for Correctional Settings Based on Community and Facility Transmission Levels of COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/jailsread.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/jailsread.pdf).

## Definitions

**Cloth mask:** Textile (cloth) face coverings that are intended primarily for source control in the community. They are not personal protective equipment (PPE) because the degree to which cloth masks protect the wearer might vary. Guidance on design, use, and maintenance of cloth masks is at [CDC: Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html).

**Extended use:** Wearing the same eye protection and facemask (or N95 respirator) for repeated close-contact encounters with several different residents, without removing between resident encounters.

**Eye protection:** Put on eye protection (i.e., goggles or a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face) upon entry to the patient room or care area, if not already wearing as part of CDC extended use strategies for [optimizing personal protective equipment \(PPE\) supplies \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html). Protective eyewear (e.g., safety glasses, trauma glasses) with gaps between glasses and the face likely do not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays. Learn more at [ACIP: The Basics of Eye Protection for COVID-19 \(apic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Factsheet\\_EyeProtect3.pdf\)](https://www.cdc.gov/acip/files/2020/12/Factsheet_EyeProtect3.pdf).

**Facemask:** Facemasks are personal protective equipment (PPE) and are often referred to as surgical masks or procedure masks. Use facemasks 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. Facemasks that are not regulated by FDA, such as some procedure masks, which are typically used for isolation purposes, may not provide protection against splashes and sprays.

**Isolation:** Separates sick people with a contagious disease, like COVID-19, from people who are not sick.

**Quarantine:** Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease, like COVID-19, to see if they become sick.

## Other relevant guidance

Facilities should use this document in conjunction with other MDH and CDC COVID-19 guidance for correctional facilities:

- [Interim Guidance for Correctional Settings Based on Community and Facility Transmission Levels of COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/jailsread.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/jailsread.pdf)
- [CDC: Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html)



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