

Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for PAs and Family Members in Knowsley

Updated 24 April 2020

Section 1 - Guidance on the use of PPE

This information and guidance is based on the current information from the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England (PHE) and Knowsley Public Health. It takes account of the latest approach to combat the **sustained transmission** of COVID-19.

Is my PA eligible to receive PPE?

Yes, PPE is required, and the PA, as an essential worker, will be eligible to receive that. Furthermore, if your PA normally receives PPE to support you, this should continue. More detail on who should provide this PPE is set out below.

When is it OK for my PA not to use PPE?

Examples where PPE may not be required are conversations over 2 metres away or delivering items to a resident without any direct contact. All such activity should follow social distancing maintaining a 2 metres or more distance.

When should my PA be using PPE?

If your PA is delivering personal care then they should adhere to the following PPE guidance:

- Any single care or support task that requires you to be within 2 metres of a person you are supporting, who does not have Covid-19 or symptoms, you **should** wear disposable single use gloves, disposable single use plastic apron and a fluid repellent mask.
- If the nature of the personal care you provide, and/or the person you are caring for may be in a vulnerable or shielded 'at risk' category, a fluid repellent mask **must** be worn at all times.
- If the person you are caring for has covid-19 or has symptoms or anyone else in the household has symptoms then a fluid repellent mask **must** be worn at all times.
- If you carry out a task where there is a risk of coming into contact with the person's body fluids (e.g. washing, wound care, coughing, spitting etc.) then eye protection/goggles are recommended to be worn.

- If carrying out **aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)**, you should wear a higher level of protective mask; a FFP2 or FFP3 mask which must be fitted. For more information [click here](#) to see Section 8 of government guidance -

What about family members, will they receive PPE if they are providing care and support?

Firstly, we would encourage all unpaid carers and family members looking after loved ones to continue to follow the general hygiene guidance provided by the Government, including washing their hands and cleaning frequently used surfaces.

Where people are taking on care work in a voluntary capacity, and the person being cared for or anyone in their household is symptomatic or has confirmed Covid-19 (or indeed has any other condition that is potentially infectious), or is in the 'shielded' category, then they should also be able to access, and use, PPE as above.

What is the guidance on use of different types of PPE?

- Eye protection (that is not single use) can be worn by the same user repetitively. The protection must be washed with soap and hot water, dried on paper towel and cleaned with a disinfectant wipe at the end of the day or if they have clearly been splashed. They must be stored in a safe place and can be used the following day. In between different households, they must be cleaned with disinfectant wipe.
- New PPE must be used for each episode of care. It is essential PPE is stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within the room. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual household waste bin.
- In emergency situations **only**, where you do not have access to sufficient masks, a single use mask, which is not damaged, can be washed with soap and hot water, dried on paper towel and cleaned with a disinfectant wipe and worn again by the same carer.

For more information

- [COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#)
- [Click here](#) for Public Health England PPE recommendations

Section 2: How to get PPE for your PA in Knowsley

The following arrangements are in place from Friday 24 April 2020.

Order direct from Knowsley Council

- Completing the PPE Stock Request Form below and send this by email to DFGGrantsteam@knowsley.gov.uk
- If you are unable to complete the form - send an email to DFGGrantsteam@knowsley.gov.uk making sure you set out clearly all the information required on the form.

Information Details	Please add your details below	
Name		
Delivery address (including postcode) we would request collection wherever possible		
Contact name		
Contact telephone number(s)		
Contact email address		
Product	Items per unit	Number of units to order
Apron	Please indicate individual numbers	
Nitrile Gloves (Small)	Please indicate individual numbers	
Nitrile Gloves (Medium)	Please indicate individual numbers	
Nitrile Gloves (Large)	Please indicate individual numbers	
Nitrile Gloves (Extra Large)	Please indicate individual numbers	
Face masks IIR (surgical face masks – fluid resistant)	Individual	
Eye protector glasses	Individual	
Hand Hygiene (100ml alcohol gel bottle)	Individual	
Hand Hygiene (500ml alcohol gel bottle)	Individual	
Disinfecting wipes	Pack	
Waste Sacks	Roll	

Wait until you are contacted

If you have already received a delivery of PPE from Knowsley Council during the past three weeks, you will be contact by the Knowsley Council PPE team by telephone to place further orders.

Make an emergency request

Email the details of your urgent requirements to andy.gilbert@kdc.org.uk who will contact Knowsley Council on your behalf.

Continue to purchase PPE direct from your usual source

If your existing direct payment contains funding to purchase PPE for your PAs, you should continue to use that funding to buy PPE directly if you can.

3 Safety procedures when using PPE

PPE is only effective if it used correctly. Public Health England has produced a number of resources that explain how PPE can be safely used to minimise the spread of infection. The guidance on how to use PPE effectively can be found below:

What is the correct procedure for putting on PPE and taking off PPE?

The order for putting on PPE is; hand hygiene, apron or gown, facemask, eye protection (if required) and gloves. See [Covid-19 Guide to putting on and taking off standard PPE](#)

To minimise the potential for self-contamination PPE should be removed carefully. The order for PPE removal is; gloves, hand hygiene, apron or gown, eye protection, hand hygiene, face mask, hand hygiene. Then disposed of safely in order to be effective.

- Where feasible this can be done inside the household with access to soap and water.
- Use paper towels. If this is not possible please remove outside the property using alcohol gel for hand hygiene. Ask the householder to dispose of the plastic bags in their household waste, if you cannot access the external bin directly.
- When PPE has been worn, it must be disposed of in a supplied plastic bag and tied, placed into second bag and tied, stored in a secure place for 72 hours, then put in normal household waste collection service, in line with national guidance ([here](#))
- If the household bin collection is 72 hours or more from collection, then the bin is a safe place to store the bagged, disposed PPE.
- When PPE has been worn, it must be disposed of in a supplied plastic bag and tied, placed into second bag and tied, stored in a secure place for 72 hours, then put in normal household waste collection service, in line with national guidance ([here](#))
- If the household bin collection is 72 hours or more from collection, then the bin is a safe place to store the bagged, disposed PPE.

What are my PA's responsibilities?

All PA's should understand the importance of infection, prevention and control. They should understand the importance of protecting individuals from the risk of infection.

PA's should be rigorous in practicing social distancing guidelines where possible in their life outside work to minimise the risk of infection. This means staying at least 2 metres apart from other people. Whilst in work, social distancing should apply when possible (we know this is not possible when providing direct care).

Additional advice and support

Good infection control practice is essential to limit the spread of COVID-19. If you require any advice around infection prevention please call the Community Infection Team or PHE (if out of hours) on the numbers below.

- Community Infection Prevention and Control Team - 0151 676 5439 / 0151 676 5438
- Public Health England Health Protection Team Cheshire and Merseyside – 0344 225 0562 Out of hours advice line - 0151 434 4819

Further information

The most current guidance for people providing care at home which includes Personal Assistants can be found [here](#).

- Watch [how to wash your hands correctly](#)
- Watch [how to put on PPE correctly](#)
- Watch [how to remove PPE correctly](#)
- Watch [how to dispose of waste](#)
- Watch [how to apply hand sanitiser correctly](#)