

# An Important Update from the Infection Prevention Team

## COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines as of 3/23/20

Now is the time to practice evidence-based guidelines combined with all you were taught in school and during your time within BAYADA. We have consistently practiced safe, high quality care demonstrating our value of *Excellence*. Your leaders have always kept you safe, and there is no changing that commitment during this global pandemic.

### Hand and Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

- Cover your cough (using your elbow is a good technique)
- Avoid people who are sick
- Clean your hands often using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Keep your hands away from your face

### Standard Precautions

Use Standard Precautions, for care of all clients to protect both you and the client. Key practices include performing **hand hygiene** using alcohol-based waterless hand gel or soap and water; **wearing gloves** when in contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, broken skin, and mucous membranes, or any contaminated items with those substances; **wearing other personal protective equipment (PPE)** such as, gowns, aprons, masks, and goggles to protect skin, eyes, and clothing during procedures that generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids.

### Droplet Precautions

These precautions are used when larger droplets are released into the air and land on surfaces and items that consequently become contaminated. Droplet precautions are used with clients sick with influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), adenovirus, pertussis, mumps, rubella, and other upper respiratory infections where secretions are not contained. Droplet precautions include wearing a **surgical mask** within **three feet** of the client; **wearing gloves** when in contact with any secretions or items contaminated with secretions; and adhering to **excellent hand hygiene practices**.

### Airborne Precautions

You use Airborne Precautions when tiny droplets are released into the air and stay suspended in the air for a long time, making it easy for another person to inhale them. These precautions are used with clients with tuberculosis, measles, chickenpox, smallpox, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and at this time, positive COVID-19 clients. These precautions include wearing a surgical N95 respirator, gloves, gowns, goggles, and other PPE as needed/required for specific infectious organisms when caring for positive COVID-19 clients.

**These precautions are what you already follow thousands of times a week, as you help our clients have a safe home life with comfort, independence, and dignity. Now, with the new COVID-19 virus, we will continue to use our evidence-based, CDC-recommended practices.**

### Masks and Related PPE, based on client presentation

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>For COVID-19 positive clients</b>   | Use N95 mask, goggles, gowns, and gloves        |
| <b>For symptomatic clients, COVID-19 test pending</b>  | Use surgical mask, and any other necessary PPE* |
| <b>For asymptomatic clients awaiting test results</b>  | Use surgical mask, and any other necessary PPE* |
| <b>For asymptomatic clients with known exposure</b>  | Use surgical mask and any other necessary PPE*  |
| * Wear eye protection (goggles or face shield) when client care requires the clinician to perform aerosol generating procedures (ie, administering nebulized medication, suctioning of the respiratory tract [if not using in line suctioning], cough-inducing procedures, assisting with bi-pap or c-pap) |   |

For clients and employees who are uncomfortable receiving or providing care without a mask—even though it is not deemed medically necessary for safe care delivery—you may use a non-PPE mask for you or your client's comfort level. Please mark an X on the mask so that the mask is clearly not part of PPE. PPE, and especially masks, are at shortage levels and need to be retained for those clients and caregivers who are closely interacting with the COVID-19 virus. Based on supply/demand and evidence about this virus, this chart may be modified.

### Client Screening Measures

Use your assessment questions to guide your understanding of client risk particularly around travel to a [level 3 country](#), community exposure, or household in contact with someone who has the disease.

We will all get through this together! Remember, you know this stuff. Practice it daily. And now more than ever, our clients are counting on us to be by their side, allowing them to live their best life.

Kind regards,  
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