

Instructions to Facilitators

- This slide deck is intended to provide an overview and an opportunity for discussion of the recommendations in PHO's Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 document.
- The content is organized into three sections which can be selected and used to develop your own community of practice (CoP) sessions.
 - Section 1: Omicron – the new variant (slides 5 - 13)
 - Section 2: Reduce the Risk of Omicron Transmission (slide 14 – 27)
 - Section 3: PPE Recommendations (slides 28 – 43)
- The content is supported by polling questions, scenarios and discussion questions to engage and interact with your CoP participants.

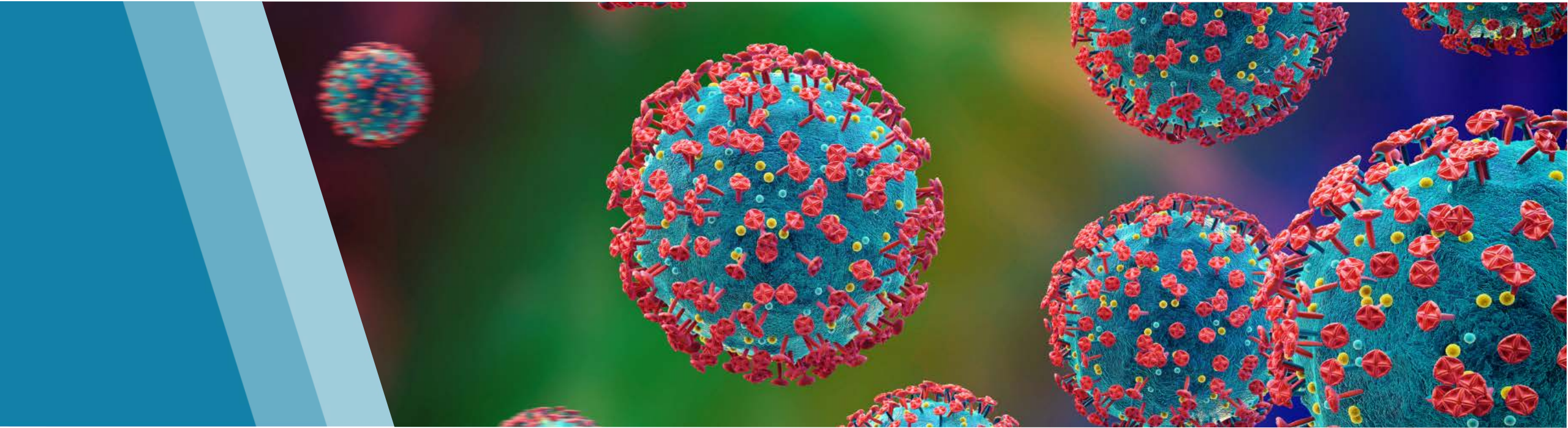
Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19

IPAC Hub Community of Practice

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Omicron – the new variant



Technical Brief: Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19
Current as of (date)

Objectives

By the end of this session, Community of Practice participants will be able to

- describe the changes in the Omicron variant compared to previous variants of concern
- discuss the importance of having multiple layers of prevention to reduce the risk of transmission of the Omicron variant.

What is different this time?

- The new Omicron variant of COVID-19 seems to be:
 - More easily spread than other strains
 - Less responsive to the vaccine
- There is a large spike in cases and this means:
 - There is more virus around in the community
 - There are more outbreaks in congregate settings than previous waves
- Masking recommendations have recently changed:
 - Fit-tested N95 respirator for the care of residents who have COVID-19

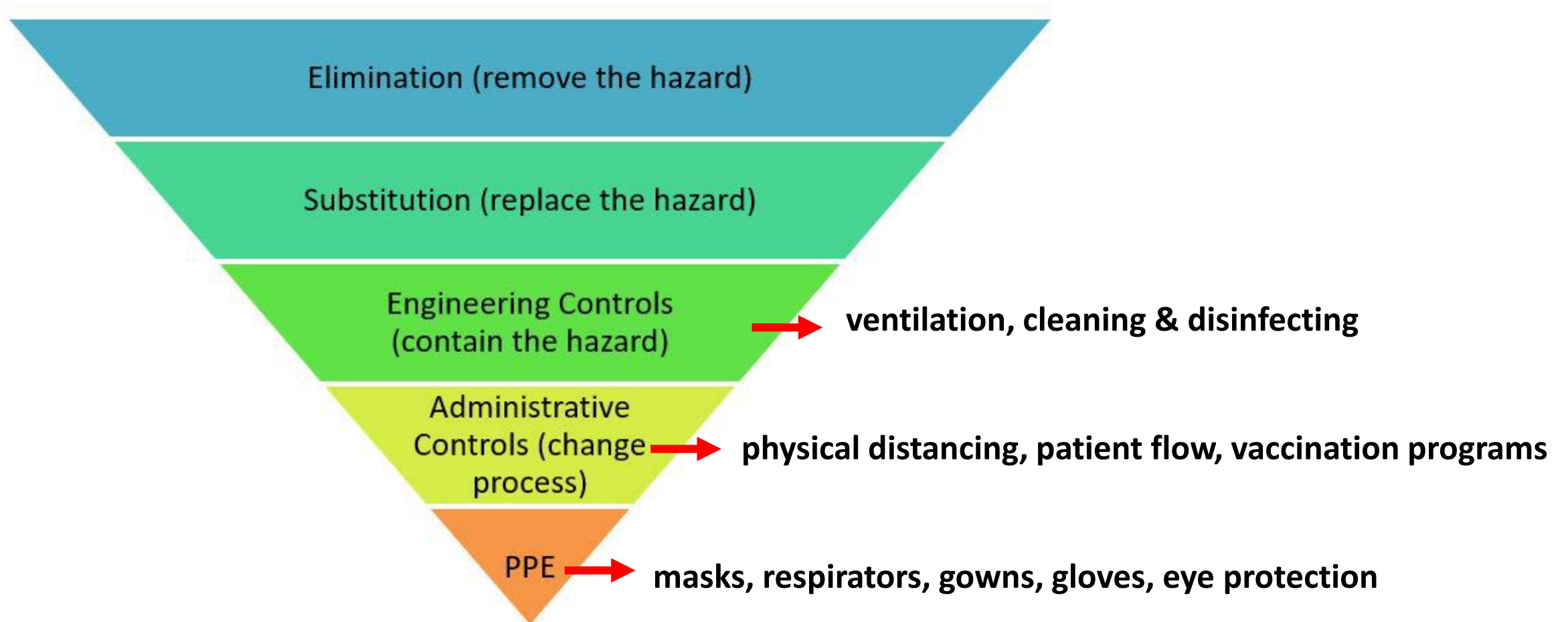
What you need to do right now

- Use layers of prevention:
 - Don't just rely on masks
 - Look at all of the things you can do to keep yourself and your residents/patients/clients safe
- Stop Omicron from coming into your setting:
 - Screen anyone coming in and out
 - Check residents/patients/clients for symptoms each day
- Use the right PPE:
 - Fit-tested N95 respirators for the direct care of individuals who have or may have COVID-19
 - Well-fitting medical masks when not in direct contact with individuals who have or may COVID-19

Layers of Protection Against COVID-19



Hierarchy of Controls



Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Hierarchy of controls [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2015 [cited 2021 Aug 12]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html>. Adapted with permission available from: <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/44301>

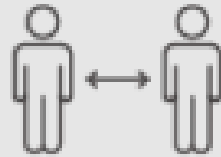
Protective measures



Cleaning Hands



Masking



Physical Distancing



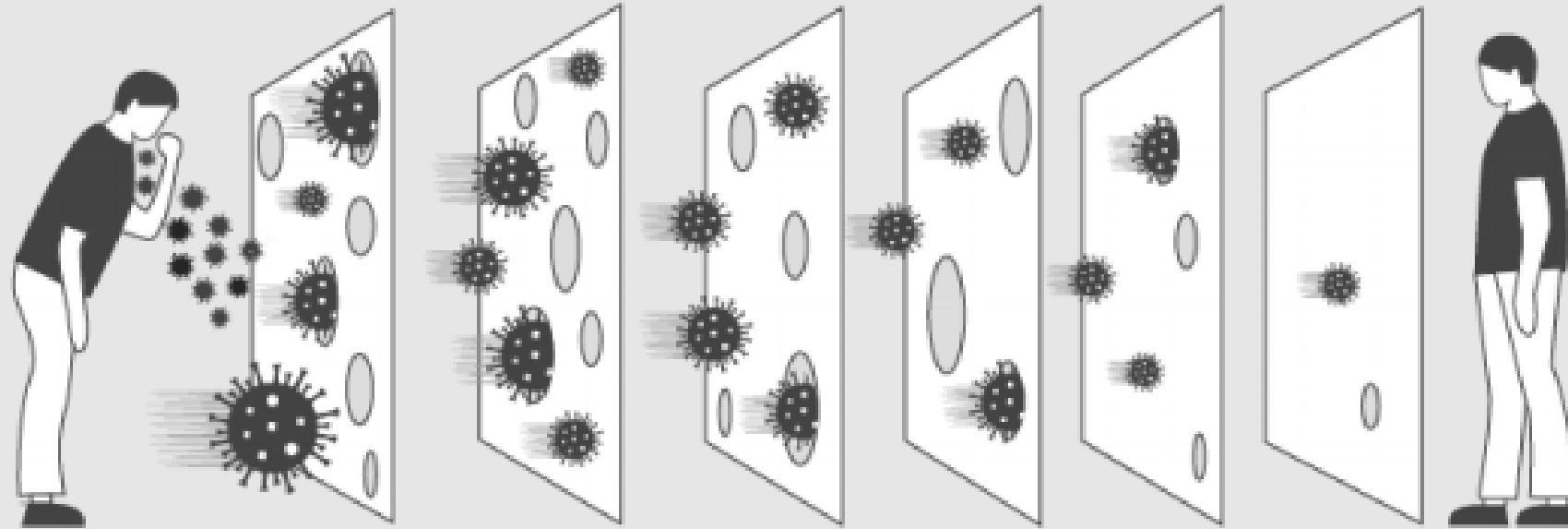
Ventilation



Staying Home When Sick



Vaccination



Adapted from: Rockefeller Foundation. Layers of protection against covid-19 - the "Swiss cheese" model [video recording on the Internet]. New York: Rockefeller Foundation; 2021 [cited 2021 Jun 02]. 1:15 min. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ou88lei-52k>

Frequently Asked Question

Why have the recommendations changed?

Scenario: Receiving New Resident/Client To Your Home



Please answer questions that are displayed in poll pod.

Reduce the Risk of Omicron Transmission



Current as of (date)

Objectives

By the end of this session, Community of Practice participants will be able to

- describe various strategies used to reduce the risk of transmission of the Omicron variant

Discussion: Screening

- Have your screening practices changed throughout the pandemic?
 - Do you have any current concerns with your screening practices (e.g. staff have become complacent with the screening questions)?
- Are staff screening themselves throughout their shift?
- What could be improved with your screening practices?

Discussion: Individual Risk Assessment (1/2)

- How often should staff perform an individual risk assessment?
- What factors do you consider when performing an individual risk assessment?
- Are you confident your staff are performing risk assessments properly?

Discussion: Individual Risk Assessment (2/2)

- Should be completed by the staff member before every resident/client interaction or task to determine risk of being exposed to an infection.
- Allows staff to select the correct PPE required to protect themselves and other staff in their interaction with the client and their environment based on:
 - Task at-hand
 - Health status of the resident/client
 - If resident/client is under additional precautions
 - If there is an outbreak in the home/facility
 - If resident is in isolation on admission as per guidance

Poll Question – Ventilation (1/2)



Please answer questions that are displayed in poll pod.

Poll Question – Ventilation (2/2)



Please answer questions that are displayed in poll pod.

Discussion: Ventilation (1/2)

- What strategies have you used to improve ventilation in your setting?
- Have you encountered any challenges in improving ventilation in your setting?

Discussion: Ventilation (2/2)

- Crowded and enclosed spaces may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission
- Transmission risk can be reduced through ventilation, including:
 - Dilution – opening windows and doors, increasing air exchanges for air handling systems, leaving bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans on
 - Filtration – using a good quality filter and changing it routinely
- Use of air purifiers/filters
 - Be aware of limitations, risks
 - Ensure safe placement – avoid placing at face level
 - Clean and maintain according to manufacturers recommendations

What is “short-range and long-range” transmission?

- “**Long-range transmission**” can occur with SARS CoV-2 under the right combination of conditions (The Three Cs):
 - Closed spaces with poor ventilation
 - Crowded spaces
 - Close contact
 - AND When sufficient quantity of infectious virus is present
- SARS-CoV-2 most commonly transmits when in close contact with an infected person’s respiratory particles, referred to as “**short-range transmission.**”

Frequently Asked Question

- What if a staff member tests positive for COVID-19 on a Rapid Antigen Test?
 - Self isolate
 - Confirm result
 - Safely return to workplace

Scenario: Personal Risk Assessment



Please answer questions that are displayed in poll pod.

Scenario: You Identify a Symptomatic Client/Resident/Guest



Please answer questions that are displayed in poll pod.

Scenario: Rapid Antigen Testing



Please answer questions that are displayed in poll pod.

Use the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with Residents/Guests with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19



Current as of (date)

Objectives

By the end of this session, Community of Practice participants will be able to

- describe the layers of protection when caring for those with suspect or confirmed COVID-19
- discuss the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures based on an individual risk assessment
- describe the importance around the appropriate selection and routine use of masks and N95 respirators in light of the Omicron variant.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Recommendations (1/5)

- Direct care to residents with suspect or confirmed COVID-19
 - **Previous:**
 - Recommended PPE includes medical mask, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
 - **Interim:**
 - Recommended PPE includes a fit-tested **N95 respirator**, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
 - Other appropriate PPE (based on risk assessment) includes well-fitted medical mask or non-fit tested N95 respirator (or equivalent), isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.

Please note that the Ministry of Health's Directive 5 is the provincial baseline standard for provision of PPE for hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes during COVID-19

PPE Recommendations (2/5)

- Providing an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) (e.g., continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and/or open suctioning) on a resident with suspect or confirmed COVID-19
 - **Previous:**
 - Recommended PPE includes fit-tested N95 respirator, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
 - Manage in a single room with door closed.
 - Keep the number of people in the room during the procedure to a minimum.
 - **Interim:**
 - **No change**

PPE Recommendations (3/5)

- Environmental services workers entering the room of a resident with suspect or confirmed COVID-19
 - **Previous:**
 - Recommended PPE includes medical mask, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
- Environmental services workers entering **and cleaning** in the room of residents with suspect or confirmed COVID-19
 - **Interim:**
 - Recommended PPE includes a fit-tested **N95 respirator**, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
 - Other appropriate PPE (based on risk assessment) includes well-fitted medical mask or non-fit tested N95 (or equivalent), isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.

PPE Recommendations (4/5)

- Visitors entering the room of a resident with suspect or confirmed COVID-19
 - **Previous:**
 - Recommended PPE includes well-fitted medical mask, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection
 - Visitors should be kept to a minimum.
 - **Interim:**
 - Recommended PPE includes well-fitted medical mask or non-fit tested N95 respirator, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection
 - Limited to those providing essential care.
 - Consider restricting to fully vaccinated.



PPE Recommendations (5/5)

- Preliminary screening (e.g., triage)
 - **Previous:**
 - If able to maintain spatial distance (at least 2 m) or separation by physical barrier: Routine Practices.
 - Otherwise, recommended PPE includes well-fitted medical mask, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
 - For any screening of a patient with suspect or confirmed COVID-19, in addition to above, provide patient with a medical mask if tolerated and direct to perform hand hygiene.
 - **Interim:**
 - If able to maintain spatial distance (at least 2 m) or separation by physical barrier: Routine Practices.
 - Otherwise, recommended PPE includes well-fitted medical mask or non-fit tested N95 respirator or equivalent, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection.
 - For any screening of a patient with suspect or confirmed COVID-19, in addition to above provide patient with a medical mask if tolerated and direct to perform hand hygiene.
 - Provide medical mask to accompanying caregivers.

Frequently Asked Questions (1/7)

- **How can I order N95 respirators and where can I get respirator fit-testing?**
 - N95 respirator supply to support fit testing can be requested through the [Ontario Health Digital Health Services COVID-19 PPE, Swab Kit and Rapid Test request form](#).
 - Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA) provides train-the-trainer programs, including virtual training.

Frequently Asked Questions (2/7)

- **What is the recommendation if our organization runs out of N95 respirators?**
 - Determine your estimated daily/weekly PPE usage and supplies can be ordered through the Ontario Government's [PPE Supply Portal page](#).

Frequently Asked Questions (3/7)

- **Where relevant, should the “recommended PPE” (N95, etc.) and “other appropriate PPE” (medical mask, etc.) both be considered appropriate PPE for the purposes of risk-assessment of close contacts?**
 - Yes, both are considered appropriate for the risk assessment.
 - The interim recommendations include a fit-tested N95 respirator (or equivalent or greater protection), eye protection, gown and gloves for direct care of individuals with suspect or confirmed COVID-19, and a well-fitted medical mask or non-fit tested respirator (and other PPE listed above) are also considered appropriate PPE based on individual risk assessment.
 - The risk assessment of close contacts would also involve other considerations such as whether or not PPE was worn consistently and appropriately and the type and duration of the interaction.

Frequently Asked Questions (4/7)

- **Is double masking recommended?**
 - Do not layer PPE (do not double mask)
 - Do wear a well fitted, well constructed mask



Frequently Asked Questions (5/7)

- **What is an equivalent to an N95 respirator?**
 - Equivalent respirators approved under standards used in other countries are acceptable (such as medical KN95 respirators and FFP2 respirators) if the manufacturer can provide evidence demonstrating testing to the appropriate standards.
 - [COVID-19 medical masks and respirators: Information for health professionals - Canada.ca](#)
 - [Health Canada - Medical Device Respirator recalls](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (6/7)

- **When do I need to change my mask/N95 respirator?**
 - Persons wearing a mask must also practice physical distancing of at least two metres (six feet).
 - Masks are to be discarded if visibly soiled, contaminated, damp, damaged or difficult to breathe through, and after removal.
 - Best practice when using masks as PPE is to discard the mask upon leaving the patient/resident environment, however, in times of critical supply shortages, extended use of masks can be considered.
 - After use, masks are to be handled in a manner that minimizes the potential for cross-contamination
 - Hand hygiene is to be performed before putting on and after removing or otherwise handling masks.

Frequently Asked Questions (7/7)

- **What is extended use of a medical mask/N95 respirator?**
 - Extended use refers to the practice of wearing the same item of PPE continuously without removing it.
 - Extended use is preferable to re-use because repeatedly doffing and donning used PPE can increase the risk of self-contamination.
 - N95 respirator extended use should only be considered during supply shortages and in consultation with your IPAC professional.
 - Based on a risk assessment, there may be reasonable opportunities to extend the use of PPE safely.
 - E.g. staff entering a room with no direct interaction with a resident/patient/client may continue to wear their facial PPE after exiting the room.

Helpful Resources



Helpful Resources (1 of 4)

- PHO Fact Sheets

- [COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment and Non-Medical Masks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#)
- [Planning for Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Optimizing the Use of Masks Against COVID-19](#)
- [When to Self-isolate for Household Members](#)

- PHO Checklists

- [Checklist: COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Checklist: Managing COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Checklist: COVID-19: Infection Prevention and Control Checklist for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes](#)

Helpful Resources (2 of 4)

- PHO Evidence Brief
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant and Community Masking](#)
- PHO Recorded Webinars
 - Interim IPAC Recommendations for the use of PPE in Long-Term Care
 - Interim IPAC Recommendations for the use of PPE in Congregate Settings
 - [Planning for Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
 - [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) and Non-Medical Masks in Congregate Living Settings](#)

[PHO FAQ](#)

Frequently Asked Questions on Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of PPE in Health Care Settings

Helpful Resources (3 of 4)

- PHO Posters/lanyard cards
 - [Putting on Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
 - [Remove Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- PHO Videos
 - [Putting on Flatfold N95 Respirator](#)
 - [Taking off Flatfold N95 Respirator](#)
 - [Putting on Cone N95 Respirator](#)
 - [Taking off Cone N95 Respirator](#)

Resources for Congregate Living Settings and Long-Term Care

[COVID-19 Resources for Congregate Living Settings | Public Health Ontario](#)

[COVID-19 Long-Term Care Resources | Public Health Ontario](#)

Helpful Resources

- Ministry of Child Community and Social Services
 - [COVID-19 Guidance for MCCSS-funded and Licensed Congregate Living Settings | Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services](#)
- Ministry of Health
 - [Directive 1](#) (Dec 21, 2021) and Q&A
 - Directive 3 (Dec 24, 2021)
 - [Directive 5](#) (Dec 20, 2021) and Q&A (Dec 21, 2021)
 - Fact Sheet – Respiratory Fit Testing
 - [COVID-19 Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#)
 - [COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations](#) (Nov 29, 2021)
 - COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-term Care Homes in Ontario (Dec 23, 2021)

Who do you call for help?

- Your IPAC Champion
- Your IPAC Hub
- Your Public Health Unit

Public Health Ontario keeps Ontarians safe and healthy. Find out more at [PublicHealthOntario.ca](https://www.publichealthontario.ca)