

Pandemic Plan – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Equipment available to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others during the pandemic

Preamble – This document will outline supplies available to staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In order to use a PPE a hazard must be present such as diagnosis of COVID – 19 or suspected diagnosis. The management endorses the staff use of items such as gloves, face shield and non-medical grade mask for personal care or contact under 2 meters for staff comfort during the pandemic when no hazard is present or suspected to be present.

Please note - As per Health Canada - Medical masks, including surgical, medical procedure face masks and respirators (like N95 masks), must be kept for healthcare workers and others providing direct care to COVID-19 patients. When there is a diagnosis or possible diagnosis Avenue II will follow Public Health direction for PPE.

PPE

Gloves – Vinyl and Nitrile are available to staff dependent on need and use. Vinyl are appropriate for low risk, short term client contact and cleaning. Nitrile gloves are available for medium to high risk client contact or situations where puncture is more likely.

Goggles - Goggles (reusable) are available in each home for use when appropriate for cleaning, spraying of disinfectant spray or other solutions that may pose harm to the eye.

Face Shields – Personal, cleanable and re-useable face shields have been issued to staff for use in appropriate situations.

Surgical Mask- As provided by Public Health according to their guidelines and protocols. Dispose as per directives from Public Health.

Equipment available to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others

Non-medical grade reusable Cloth Masks - Wearing a non-medical mask cloth mask has not been proven to protect the person wearing it. Strict hygiene and public health measures, including frequent hand washing and physical (social) distancing, will reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus. The masks are washable and reusable.

It has not been proven that they protect from droplets which is how the virus is transmitted.

Note – Always explain the use of the PPE and other equipment to clients prior to using them.

Note – refer to donning and doffing of PPE documents for direction and order of donning and doffing.

When to use face shield and surgical mask–

- When directed by and provided by Public Health.

When to use face shield and non-medical cloth mask–

- When providing direct care (within 2 meter) to a client with Daily Living Skills, Hygiene or Medication Administration.
- for any PCH where there may be splashing or spraying of body fluids.

Non-medical Cloth Mask use–

- When attending mandatory health care appointments with clients, vehicle use with clients, and other appointments where there is likelihood of social distancing of 2 meters will not be maintained.
- You may choose to wear a mask any time you choose and when unable to maintain social distancing of 2 meters while supporting a client.
- **Note – Always explain the use of the mask to clients prior to using.**

Cloth Mask Contamination and cleaning as per Health Canada-

Cloth masks can become contaminated on the outside, or when touched by your hands. When wearing a mask, take the following precautions to protect yourself:

- Avoid touching your face mask while using it.
- Change a cloth mask as soon as it gets damp or soiled.
 - put it directly into the washing machine or a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine and then disposed of.
 - cloth masks can be laundered with other items using a hot cycle, and then dried thoroughly.

Mask Cleaning suggestions as per manufacture –

Option 1: Standard Washing Machine

- Launder on gentle cycle, with a hot or sanitize options selected.
- Dry thoroughly on gentle cycle.

Option 2: Dishwasher

- Place mask in top rack of dishwasher, secure ties.
- Run Sanitize and dry functions.

Note: If the nose piece becomes flattened or deformed during washing, bend back into shape using your fingers, then adjust to tighten/loosen when over your nose.

When correcting the bend, keep the light grey of the cloth to the outside, and the darker grey of the cloth to the inside. Please ask for replacements when the nose piece or elastic fails or is compromised.

Face Shield Cleaning – Personally issued

- Wash with soap and water
- Disinfect using a disinfectant
- Dry and store
- Note - the item should be brought to and from the work location each day.
- If you feel the Shield no longer can be cleaned effectively or has become compromised, please contact your manager for a replacement.

Goggle cleaning

- Wash with soap and water
- Disinfect using a disinfectant
- Dry
- Return to storage location for next use by another staff.