

## How to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) correctly

### The latest guidance

Your one stop shop for the latest guidance, resources and updates for infection prevention control and use of PPE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

Please also refer to your local Infection Prevention Control advice, along with national Public Health England guidance.

### Video resources

For **hospital staff**: [https://youtu.be/kKz\\_vNGsNhc](https://youtu.be/kKz_vNGsNhc)

For **care homes staff**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozY50PPmsvE>

For **primary care staff**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3hfEpiAx0E>

To see how to put on PPE correctly for Aerosol Generating Procedures:  
[https://youtu.be/kKz\\_vNGsNhc](https://youtu.be/kKz_vNGsNhc)

To see how to take off PPE correctly for Aerosol Generating Procedures:  
<https://youtu.be/oUo5O1JmLH0>

To see how to put on PPE correctly for non-aerosol generating procedures:  
[https://youtu.be/-GncQ\\_ed-9w](https://youtu.be/-GncQ_ed-9w)

### Update on 3 May

- HSE has examined the use of FFP2 respirators as an alternative to Type IIR surgical face masks in non-surgical settings
- if risk assessment identifies a need for FFP2 respirators the user must be face fit tested to ensure they are providing the intended level of protection
- in circumstances where a lower level of user protection is required, such as that provided by a surgical mask, an FFP2 worn without a face fit test will offer protection similar to the levels from a surgical face mask
- this is a pragmatic approach for times of severe shortage of respiratory protective equipment (RPE), FFP2 respirators being used in this way will not be carrying out the function they were designed to perform
- all healthcare settings are reminded that where their risk assessment has identified the requirement for a tight-fitting respirator users must pass a face fit test for that respirator model before it can be used
- employers and users of respirators need to be assured protective equipment is protecting the wearer

**Note:**

Surgical masks may sometimes be used for source control, if feasible and if the mask can be tolerated by the individual; for example, a surgical mask worn by a patient with COVID-19 during transfer within a hospital. When an FFP2 respirator needs to be used in place of a surgical mask for this specific purpose, it should be an unvalved FFP2 respirator (that is, no exhale valve).

**Summary of PHE guidance**

Public Health England (PHE) recommended PPE ensemble for healthcare workers within a metre of a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19 is:

- Fluid repellent facemask
- Apron
- Gloves
- Eye protection if there is a risk of splashing

The recommended PPE ensemble to be used for aerosol generating procedures on patients with possible or confirmed COVID-19 is:

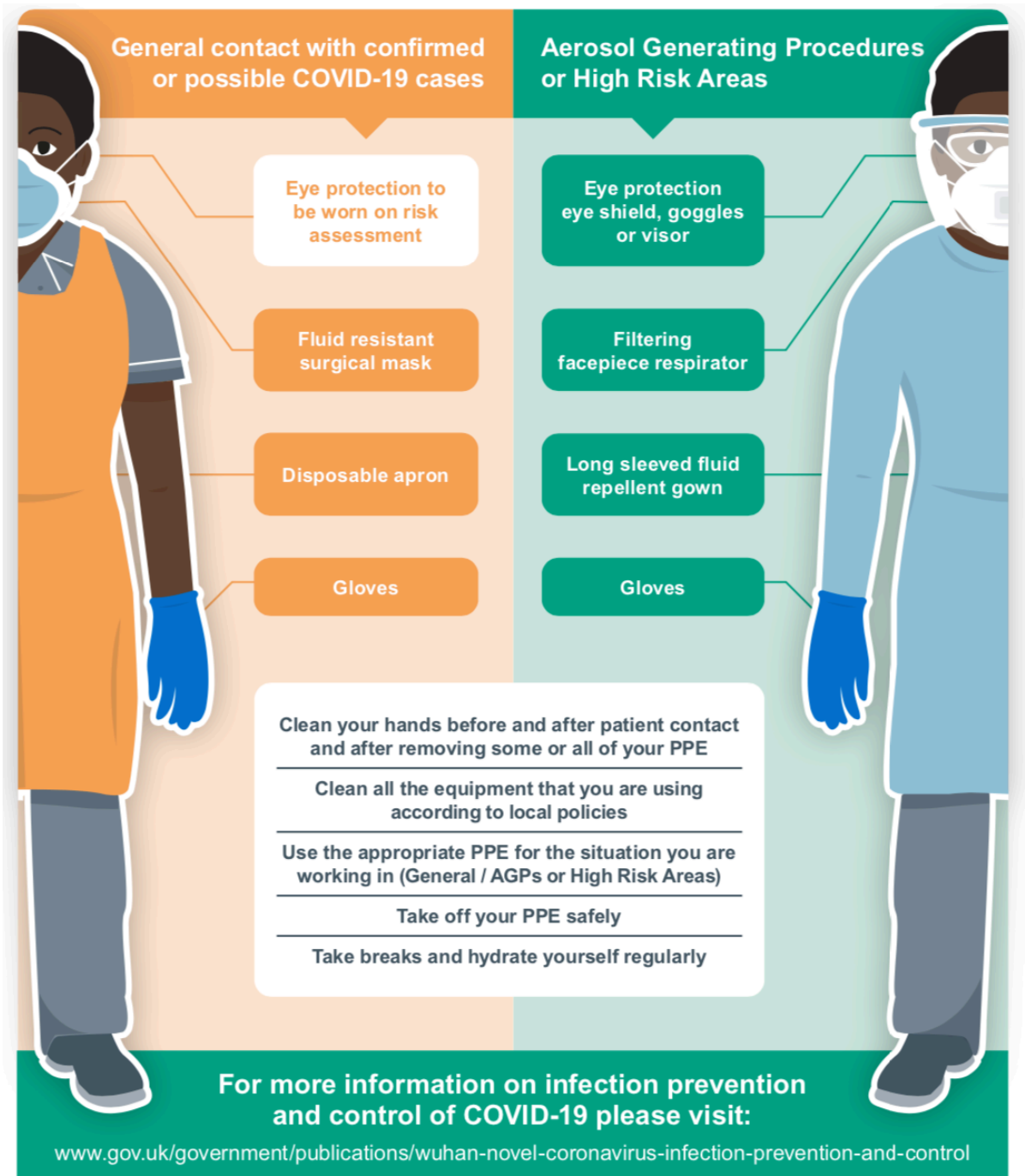
- FFP3 respirator
- Long sleeved disposable gown
- Gloves
- Eye protection (disposable goggles or full-face visor) Some healthcare workers will not have worn items like FFP3 respirators before.

**Training**

To protect their safety, all relevant staff should have received the necessary fit test training. PHE has engaged with RPA (an independent Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) fit testing company) who are running fit-test training sessions via webinars to help staff who will be training to use Qualitative or Quantitative fit test methods for FFP3 respirators for the first time or those seeking refresher training to ensure they are able to train FFP3 users safely.

Booking on to these courses is via RPA's helpline on 07947 968972 and 07947 968922. This training is free.

## A visual guide to PPE



The infographic is divided into two vertical panels. The left panel, titled 'General contact with confirmed or possible COVID-19 cases', features a person in an orange apron and a blue surgical mask. The right panel, titled 'Aerosol Generating Procedures or High Risk Areas', features a person in a blue long-sleeved gown, a blue surgical mask, and eye protection. A central white box contains general PPE instructions. The bottom of the infographic has a green background with a white URL.

**General contact with confirmed or possible COVID-19 cases**

- Eye protection to be worn on risk assessment
- Fluid resistant surgical mask
- Disposable apron
- Gloves

**Aerosol Generating Procedures or High Risk Areas**

- Eye protection eye shield, goggles or visor
- Filtering facepiece respirator
- Long sleeved fluid repellent gown
- Gloves

Clean your hands before and after patient contact and after removing some or all of your PPE

Clean all the equipment that you are using according to local policies

Use the appropriate PPE for the situation you are working in (General / AGPs or High Risk Areas)

Take off your PPE safely

Take breaks and hydrate yourself regularly

**For more information on infection prevention and control of COVID-19 please visit:**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control)