
M E M O

To:

From: Sue Nightingale, Chief Medical Officer

Date: 27 March 2020

SUBJECT: PPE Use in the Current Environment

Personal protective equipment (eg. masks, gowns, gloves) are NOT AN INFINITE RESOURCE.

While CDHB has a substantial pandemic reserve of PPE, IT IS NOT UNLIMITED and it's crucial we use it responsibly by adhering to current IPC guidelines. Soaring global demand for PPE and interrupted supply chains make it all the more important for us to use our supply of PPE wisely. Leadership is needed with regard to responsible PPE use.

In the current environment, PPE is recommended in the following settings:

Suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients

- Enhanced droplet and contact precautions ie: surgical mask, gown, gloves and eye protection (safety glasses or face shield)

Patients with respiratory symptoms

- Surgical mask to be worn when coming within 2m of any patient with an acute respiratory illness (as part of "Droplet Precautions")

Additional PPE recommendations

- CDHB staff who are the very first points of contact should wear a surgical mask when within 2m of a presenting patient until COVID-19 risk assessment is completed (ie symptoms / travel /exposure history) e.g. reception staff, triage nurse, security staff in ED, Maternity Admitting Units, AAU Ashburton Hospital and Rural Hospitals
- Surgical mask to be worn when coming within 2m of any patients (regardless of symptoms) who have
 1. Arrived from overseas in the preceding 14 days
 2. Have had casual or close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the preceding 14 days
- CDHB staff who are identified as vulnerable to COVID-19 through occupational health assessment (eg based on pregnancy, risk factors or an underlying medical condition) to wear a surgical mask when coming within 2 metres of any patients (regardless of patient symptoms)



Dr Sue Nightingale
Chief Medical Officer