

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

What type of mask should I wear?

We are following the advice provided by SA Health.

Surgical masks are an acceptable PPE to use for contact and droplet precautions.

During this pandemic, available N95/P2 masks should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would pose the highest exposure risk to health care workers.

Contact and droplet precautions (gown, gloves, eye protection and a surgical mask) are recommended for routine care of patients, including specimen collection within the RAH COVID-19 Clinic.

Contact and airborne precautions (gown, gloves, eye protection and a P2/N95 respirator – (which should be fit checked) are recommended when performing aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), i.e. intubation/extubating and clinical care of severely ill/critically ill patients.

For staff exposure analysis and assistance with required mask selection, use the Information matrix [CALHN Hierarchy of surgical mask selection](#)

What PPE do I need to wear when treating a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient?

Infection Control's specific advice about on, when, where and how PPE should be worn by clinicians for COVID-19 positive patients is available in a poster format. Pay close attention to the order items should be don and doffed. (Noting current advice is dated 28/3/20).

These PPE guidelines are in line with what is recommended and we currently have sufficient stock of the required equipment.

[View a copy](#) of the advice

I'm a cleaner, PSSA, orderly or security guard – what kind of PPE should I be using when I enter a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient?

Infection control has issued specific advice on when, where and how PPE should be worn by cleaners, PSSA, orderly and security guards.

The advice is available in poster format and close attention should be given to the order items should be don and doffed. (Noting current advice is dated 28/3/20).

These PPE guidelines are in line with what is recommended and we currently have sufficient stock of the required equipment.

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Do I need to be wearing scrubs if I'm providing care to a patient with COVID-19?

It is safe to wear PPE over your regular work clothes when caring for patients with COVID infections.

It is safe to wear your regular shoes and clothes in public areas, ward corridors, blue spaces and outside of the hospital.

Scrubs may be used if they are more comfortable

Why aren't staff wearing 'space suit-type' PPE to treat patients with COVID-19 like we see in other countries?

The PPE that is provided for staff to wear when treating COVID-19 patients is consistent with what other Australian states and other countries are wearing. It has been shown to be very safe, and as effective, as the 'space suits' you may have seen work in other countries.

'Space suits' are uncomfortable to wear, are hot and cumbersome, and make it difficult for staff to perform regular tasks. When removing them, there is also a significant risk of contamination for the person wearing it.

Within our network, COVID-19 patients will be treated at the RAH in single rooms, which assist in reducing infection risks.

Do I need to wear a mask when walking around the hospital?

No, a face mask is not required when walking around the hospital.

Are N95 3M Model 8210 and 8110 masks safe to use?

SA Health has advised that the Chief Medical Officer of the Australian Government, Dr Brendan Murphy has authorised the N95 3M Model 8210 and 8110 masks for use.

Dr Murphy has clarified that the masks are compliant with all relevant Australian and international standards and all masks held within the national stockpile meet Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) requirements and the required standards in Australia, the USA and EU.