

**Community Health Workers:
Need to Know About Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) During COVID-19**

Start Shift: Hand hygiene, new mask on (**Mask STAYS ON for entire shift**)

Step 1: Before screening: Hand hygiene, put on eye protection then gloves (mask stays on)

Step 2: Enter home, stand 2 meters away from client and ask **5 screening questions** to client/family (PROCURA)

	NO	YES
Do you have a fever?		
Do you have a cough? (new onset or exacerbation of chronic cough)		
Do you have short of breath? (new onset)		
Do you have nausea?		
Do you have diarrhea?		

Step 3: Ensure there is a regular garbage bin nearest to the enter/exit door.

After asking screening questions:

NO to all screening questions:	YES to any of the screening questions:
<p>Step 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide care (ENSURE mask, gloves and eye protection are ON) 	<p>Step 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CALL LPN Supervisor to report <p>Step 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask and eye protection stay ON Remove gloves. Hand hygiene. Put on gown. Put on gloves
MASK stays ON, unless wet/dirty/damaged	MASK stays ON, unless wet/dirty/damaged
<p>Step 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove gloves and dispose into client garbage. Hand hygiene. Move to exit door Put on clean gloves. Remove eye protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use 1 ACCEL wipe to clean eye protection (inside to outside) Use a second ACCEL wipe to disinfect eye protection (*TOTAL of 2 wipes to clean/disinfect*) Allow 1 minute to air dry Put eye protection into a dedicated plastic bag for future use Remove gloves. Hand hygiene. 	<p>Step 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove gloves and dispose into client garbage. Hand hygiene Remove and dispose disposable gown. Hand hygiene. Move to exit door Put on clean gloves. Remove eye protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use 1 ACCEL wipes to clean eye protection (inside to outside) Use a second ACCEL wipe to disinfect eye protection (*TOTAL of 2 wipes to clean/disinfect*) Allow 1 minute to air dry Put eye protection into a dedicated plastic bag for future use Remove gloves. Hand hygiene
<p>Step 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave client's home (ensure mask stays ON). Hand hygiene <p>Note: If unable to distance 2 meters from client then remove eye protection following above procedure after leaving client's home</p>	<p>Step 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave client's home (ensure mask stays ON). Hand hygiene <p>Note: If unable to distance 2 meters from client then remove eye protection following above procedure after leaving client's home</p>

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Remember:

- Maintain 2 meter distance from client when putting on and taking off Personal Protective Equipment (gown, gloves, and eye protection)
- Clean/disinfect eye protection before putting them on for each client
- *If using disposable gowns, then after removing discard gown into regular garbage.
- *If using re-usable cloth gowns, then after removing discard into dedicated plastic bag for laundering

What do I do when....?

- **My mask becomes wet, dirty or damaged while providing care to my client: CHANGE your mask!** Remove gloves. Hand hygiene. Remove mask. Hand hygiene. Put on new, clean mask. Put on clean gloves. Continue with care.
 - **Examples:** wet from the rain, wet from showering a client, moist from wearing the mask for 2-4 hrs, or dirty from providing care to client that is coughing.
- **I need to drink or eat during my shift?** If wearing gloves, remove gloves, Hand hygiene. Remove eye protection. Hand hygiene. Remove mask. Hand hygiene. EAT/DRINK. Hand hygiene. Put on new, clean mask, then eye protection, then gloves.
- **I have a longer break in between visiting clients?** If you are still wearing a mask from the previous client you can remove it and dispose in regular garbage. Remember Hand Hygiene first then remove the mask, then perform hand hygiene again. Keep your physical distance of 2 meters from others. Hand hygiene, put on new, clean mask before seeing the next client.

REMINDERS:

- When in doubt, perform hand hygiene
- Shoe covers policy remains the same, typically used for clients with Bed bugs or dirty floors (i.e. feces)
- Staff are recommended to have work specific footwear
- Staff are recommended to shower immediately upon returning home after every shift
- Gowns are used for COVID 19 positive/symptomatic clients (i.e. fever, coughing, short of breath, nausea, diarrhea)

Aside: CHWs may choose to wear a gown for some personal care (i.e. splashing during showers or messy bowel care)

DO NOT:

- **Do not touch the front of your mask**
- **Do not pull your mask down from your face and pull it back up**
- Do not put gauze or paper towel inside your mask
- Do not place a used mask into your pocket, work bag or purse and re-use it later
- Do not re-use N 95 masks; these are one-time use **ONLY**. N95 masks are only used for certain clients, see care plan.

Additional resources: [VCH Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) PPE Recommendations](#)