

**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
[Emergency Medical Relief]**

Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Additional guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment (setting approach for Health functionaries working in non-COVID areas)

1. About this guideline

This guideline is for health care workers and others working in Non COVID hospitals and Non-COVID treatment areas of a hospital which has a COVID block. These guidelines are in continuation of guidelines issued previously on ‘Rational use of Personal Protective Equipment’ (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesonrationaluseofPersonalProtectiveEquipment.pdf>). This guideline uses “settings” approach to guide on the type of personal protective equipment to be used in different settings.

2. Rational use of PPE for Non COVID hospitals and Non-COVID treatment areas of a hospital which has a COVID block

The PPEs are to be used based on the risk profile of the health care worker. The document describes the PPEs to be used in different settings.

2.1. Out Patient Department

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1	Help desk/ Registration counter	Provide information to patients	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	Physical distancing to be followed at all times
2	Doctors chamber	Clinical management	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	No aerosol generating procedures should be allowed.
3	Chamber of Dental/ENT doctors/ Ophthalmology doctors	Clinical management	Moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N-95 mask ▪ Goggles ▪ Latex examination gloves <p>+ face shield</p>	<p>Aerosol generating procedures anticipated.</p> <p>Face shield, when a splash of body fluid is expected</p>
4	Pre- anesthetic check-up clinic	Pre-anesthetic check-up	Moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N-95 mask ▪ Goggles* ▪ Latex examination gloves 	* Only recommended when close examination of oral cavity/dentures is to be done
5	Pharmacy counter	Distribution of drugs	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	Frequent use of hand sanitizer is advised over gloves.

6	Sanitary staff	Cleaning frequently touched surfaces/ Floor	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
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#All hospitals should identify a separate triage and holding area for patients with Influenza like illness so that suspect COVID cases are triaged and managed away from the main out-patient department.

2.2. In-patient Department (Non-COVID Hospital & Non-COVID treatment areas of a hospital which has a COVID block)

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1	Ward/individual rooms	Clinical management	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	Patients stable. No aerosol generating activity.
2	ICU/ Critical care	Critical care management	Moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N-95 mask ▪ Goggles ▪ Nitrile examination gloves +Face shield	Aerosol generating activities performed. Face shield, when a splash of body fluid is expected
3	Ward/ICU /critical care	Dead body packing	Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple Layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
4	Ward/ICU/ Critical care (Non-COVID)	Dead body transport to mortuary	Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple Layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
5	Labor room	Intra-partum care	Moderate Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple Layer medical mask ▪ Face shield ▪ Sterile latex gloves N-95 mask*	Patient to be masked in the Labor room *If the pregnant woman is a resident of containment zone
6	Operation Theater	Performing surgery, administering general anaesthesia	Moderate Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple Layer medical mask ▪ Face shield (- wherever feasible) ▪ Sterile latex gloves + Goggles	Already OT staff shall be wearing For personnel involved in aerosol generating procedures

				N-95 mask*	*If the person being operated upon is a resident of containment zone
7	Sanitation	Cleaning frequently touched surfaces/ floor/ changing linen	Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple Layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	

2.3. Emergency Department (Non-COVID)

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1	Emergency	Attending emergency cases	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple Layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	No aerosol generating procedures are allowed
2		Attending to severely ill patients while performing aerosol generating procedure	High risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full complement of PPE (N-95 mask, coverall, goggle, Nitrile examination gloves, shoe cover) 	

2.4. Other Supportive/ Ancillary Services

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1.	Routine Laboratory	Sample collection and transportation and testing of routine (non-respiratory) samples	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
		Respiratory samples	Moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N-95 mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
2	Radio-diagnosis, Blood bank, etc.	Imaging services, blood bank services etc.	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
3	CSSD/Laundry	Handling linen	Mild risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination 	

				gloves	
4	Other supportive services incl. Kitchen	Administrative Financial Engineering** and dietary** services,etc.	Low risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Face cover 	** Engineering and dietary service personnel visiting treatment areas will wear personal protective gears appropriate to that area

2.5. Pre-hospital (Ambulance) Services

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1	Ambulance Transfer to designated hospital	Transporting patients not on any assisted ventilation	Low risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	
		Management of SARI patient	High risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full complement of PPE (N-95 mask, coverall, goggle, latex examination gloves, shoe cover) 	While performing aerosol generating procedure
		Driving the ambulance	Low risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triple layer medical mask ▪ Latex examination gloves 	Driver helps in shifting patients to the emergency

Points to remember while using PPE

1. Standard precaution to be followed at all times
2. PPEs are not alternative to basic preventive public health measures such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquettes which must be followed at all times.
3. Always follow the laid down protocol for disposing off PPEs as detailed in infection prevention and control guideline available on website of MoHFW.

In addition, patients and their attendants to be encouraged to put on face cover.

In case a COVID-19 patient is detected in such Non-COVID Health facility, the MoHFW guidelines for the same has to be followed (Available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinstobefollowedondetectionofsuspectorconfirmedCOVID19case.pdf>)