

## PPE Strategies

### Prevention of Infectious Diseases such as COVID-19

**Lowest Risk:** School personnel and students must interact, and physical distancing cannot always be maintained.

**Moderate Risk:** Tasks include those that require close/direct contact (within 6 feet of) students who are not known or suspected to have COVID-19. These precautions are recommended since some students with the disease may not be showing any symptoms at the time of interaction. Although there is risk with these tasks, not all PPE listed may be needed for all situations. These tasks include, but are not limited to first aid, oral medication administration, vision screening, hearing screening, consultation, blood glucose checks (diabetes care), and inhalers for students with asthma.

**Highest Risk:** Tasks include physical assessment of any individual suspected of having COVID-19 or during aerosol-generating procedures. Tasks that require close contact (i.e. within six feet of) with students' bodily fluids or aerosol generating procedures such as suctioning of airways. These tasks should be done in a well-ventilated room isolated from others if possible.

**Note: PPE is only effective if worn properly. Training for FCPS staff available on MyPDE:** [MyPDE Personal Protective Equipment - FCPS Staff Training](#)

### Cloth Face Coverings

(not considered PPE)

#### Lowest Risk

Simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air when the student/staff coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice.

**Remove and replace when soiled or becomes wet.**

**Cleaning Guidelines:** Wash and dry daily.

**Additional Resource(s):** [Cloth Face Coverings in School from the CDC](#)



*Color and brand are subject to change due to availability.*

### Respirator (N95)

#### Highest Risk

Only available to PHNs for specific procedures.

## Gloves

### Moderate-Highest Risk (Situation Dependent)

It is recommended that gloves be worn when there is reasonable expectation that the staff may come in contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin, mucous membranes, and contaminated items.

#### Examples of services for which gloves are recommended.

- Toileting or diapering
- Feeding or providing oral care
- Assisting with personal hygiene such as brushing teeth or wiping away secretions; some speech service interactions
- Performing or assisting with medical treatments
- Gloves should be removed and changed before making contact with clean spaces – assistive devices or equipment.



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**Wearing gloves is not a substitute for hand washing with soap and running water.**

**Cleaning Guidelines:** Gloves should not be washed. They are only intended for one-time use.

Staff providing direct student support services must clean hands using soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol (soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly soiled) regularly and in the following circumstances:

- Before and after working with a student.
- Immediately after touching blood, body fluids, non-intact skin, mucous membranes, or contaminated items (even when gloves are worn during contact).
- Immediately after removing gloves, after touching objects in the immediate student support vicinity, before eating, after using the restroom, and after coughing or sneezing into a tissue.
- After incidental touching, providing hand-over-hand guidance with educational or technology materials, tactile American Sign Language, Print on Palm, Protractile Communication, or other similar points of touching.



**Additional Resource(s):** [How to Remove Gloves from the CDC](#)

## Face Shield

### Moderate (Situation Dependent) – Highest Risk

A face shield provides eye protection and increases protection provided by surgical masks when needed. It is recommended that with proper maintenance, staff may use a face shield for an extended period until damaged, it no longer fastens securely, or until visibility is obscured.

A face shield is suggested if there is a reasonable chance that a splash or spray of blood or body fluids may occur to the eyes, mouth, or nose.

#### Examples of services in which eye protection may be warranted include:

- Feeding
- Suctioning
- Assisting PHNs with medications that are difficult to swallow
- When working with students who have known to exhibit behaviors such as spitting or biting



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**Cleaning Guidelines:** Face Shields or Eye protection should be removed and cleaned if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through.

Reusable face shields should be cleaned following the manufacturer recommended process and products. If manufacturer guidelines are unavailable, follow CDC guidance for cleaning.

#### Additional Resource(s):

[Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection from the CDC](#)

## Gowns

### Highest Risk

Gowns or other covering are recommended when there is a reasonable expectation that saliva or other bodily fluids may come into contact with staff's clothing.

#### Staff should consider wearing a gown when assisting students with personal cares

- Feeding
- Toileting
- Assisting with hygiene
- Transferring

**Cleaning Guidelines:** Reuse of disposable gowns is discouraged due to the high likelihood of contamination when removing and putting on a used gown.

#### Additional Resource(s):

[Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns from the CDC](#)

## Disposable Face Masks

### Moderate – Highest Risk

Disposable face masks are not to be shared and are made to protect staff from contact with liquids.

**Delegated staff should use disposable face masks when they are:**

- 1) Providing health care procedures or physical assistance for a symptomatic student
- 2) Providing respiratory procedures (respiratory suctioning for example)
- 3) Monitoring or supervising the room designated for students who either screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms at the school entrance or develop COVID-19 symptoms during the day and are waiting for transportation to go home.
- 4) Caring for COVID-19 symptomatic students when they cannot maintain the recommended distance of six feet.



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**As soon as possible and as tolerated, sick students should wear a disposable mask until they are picked up from school.**

## PPE Types by Risk Level

PPE TYPES	LOWEST RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGHEST RISK
<b>CLOTH FACE COVERING</b> <i>(Not considered ppe)</i>	<b>YES</b>	NO	NO
<b>RESPIRATOR (N95)</b>	NO	NO	<b>YES</b>
<b>GLOVES</b>	NO	<b>YES</b> Situation Dependent	<b>YES</b> Situation Dependent
<b>FACE SHIELD</b>	NO	<b>YES</b> Situation Dependent	<b>YES</b>
<b>GOWNS</b>	NO	NO	<b>YES</b>
<b>DISPOSABLE FACE MASK</b>	NO	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## Additional Resources

- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) website](https://www.cdc.gov/) (https://www.cdc.gov/)
- [PPE Use Guidance for School Nurses and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel\(UAP\) from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](http://health.mo.gov) (health.mo.gov)
- [Guidance for Delivering Direct Student Support Services: Staff Protective Equipment from the Minnesota Department of Health](http://health.state.mn.us) (health.state.mn.us)
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Infection Control from U.S. Food & Drug Administration \(FDA\)](http://www.fda.gov) (www.fda.gov)
- [Personal Protective Equipment from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration\(OSHA\)](https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment) (https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment)