

A VISUAL GUIDE TO SAFE PPE USE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

Emergency medical services (EMS) and other first responders play a vital role in providing emergency medical treatment and transport for patients in serious or life threatening conditions. However, care and transport by EMS providers presents incredible challenges due to enclosed space during transport, the frequent need for rapid medical decision-making, patient interventions with limited information, and a varying range of patient acuity.¹ Therefore, implementation of prudent infection control precautions and correctly wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment Summary Guide – based on suspected level of risk and necessary precautions^{1,2,3}

EMS Responder	Standard Precautions	Contact Precautions	Droplet Precautions	Airborne Precautions	COVID-19 Precautions
Entering scene and during transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Clothing • Masks • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Gowns/protective clothing • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Masks • Eye protection • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Respirator* • Gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Gowns/protective clothing • Respirator* • Face shield or goggles with side protectors • Gloves
Added precautions	Risk of blood and body fluid exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face shield • Gowns/protective clothing 	Risk of respiratory secretion exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask • Face shield 	Risk of infectious particle exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask for patient if tolerated 	Risk of intubation exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gowns/protective clothing 	Risk of COVID-19 exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask for driver/pilot if in patient area

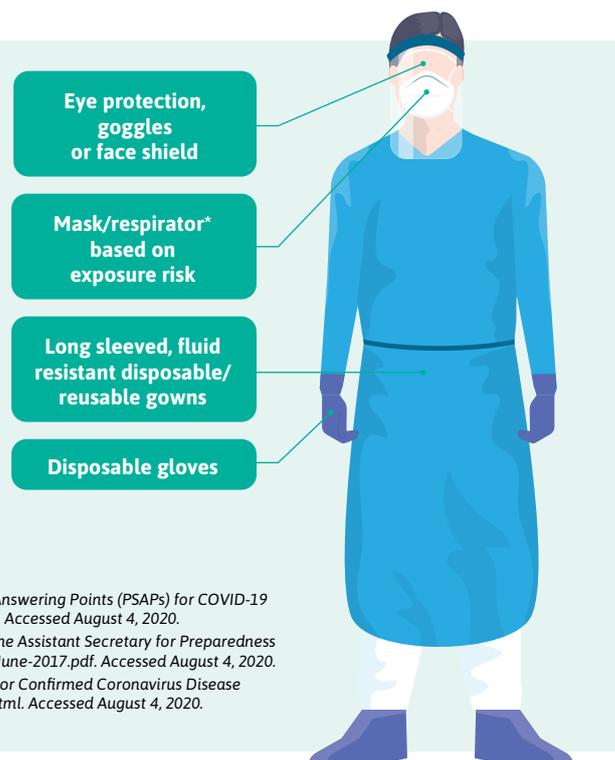
*Respirator: N95/P2/FFP2 (depending on country guidelines)

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF UPDATES HAS ALSO BEEN RECOMMENDED:

- **Facemasks and full face shield are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored. Respirators* should be prioritized** for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would pose the highest exposure risk to EMS providers.^{1,3}
- **Eye protection, gown, and gloves continue to be recommended.** If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of EMS providers.^{1,3}
- When the supply chain is restored, there is a strong recommendation for **double gloving under high risk respiratory precautions.**²

References:

1. CDC Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>. Accessed August 4, 2020.
2. EMS Infectious Disease Playbook. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. June, 2017. <https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ASPR-EMS-Infectious-Disease-Playbook-June-2017.pdf>. Accessed August 4, 2020.
3. CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>. Accessed August 4, 2020.



➔ For more information on infection prevention and control of COVID-19, please visit: www.ansell.com/us/en/the-new-coronavirus

Please Note: Given the novelty of this coronavirus, recommendations from the source references are interim and advisory in nature and are based on current knowledge of the situation. Always ensure compliance with your local public health authorities regulations surrounding conservation, usage, and selection guidance of PPE to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.