

# Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) –

## Keeping your Staff SAFE

### What kind of PPE should we use when caring for someone with a respiratory viral illness?

If COVID-19 is not yet in your community, we recommend standard, contact, and droplet precautions for all residents with **suspected respiratory viral infections**.

### What type of masks should we use when caring for someone with a respiratory viral illness?

The CDC is recommending a standard surgical facemask with eye protection for non-COVID-19 respiratory viral infections. **An N-95 mask is not necessary for routine care of residents with a respiratory viral illness.** Some facemasks come with an eye shield.

### Are homemade filtered mask acceptable PPE?

**YES!** While no homemade facemask is as effective as a N-95 respirator, studies conducted by Smart Air (an aeronautical engineering research company) have shown that a filtered reusable mask is between **65-85% effective** in stopping all microns (depending on proper wear and fit). In addition, field tests reported in Scientific Reports concluded that three-layered masks provide a more reliable means of preventing transmission during pandemics.

### When should you wear PPE?

PRIOR to entering a resident's room, or coming into close contact with a resident, a HCP should don their PPE.

### KEY POINTS to REMEMBER:

These masks are double-layered protectants. Combining the tight-knit cotton along with the filter, give the wearer maximum protection available.

The outside layer is washable, and disinfectant approved. Research has found that the virus cannot withstand temperatures over 80 degrees so washing machines will properly disinfect any contaminated masks.

unless the resident is exhibiting any respiratory symptoms, the filter inside does not need to be changed after interaction with each resident.

### Risk Table: No Active Outbreak where Residents are not wearing mask (i.e. no source control)

Epidemiologic Risk Factors	Exposure Category	Recommended Monitoring for Exposure
HCP PPE: None	Medium	Self with delegated supervision (DON)
HCP PPE: Not Wearing Facemask	Medium	Self with delegated supervision
HCP PPE: Not Wearing Gloves	Medium	Self with delegated supervision
HCP PPE: Wearing all recommended PPE with facemask instead of respirator	LOW	Self-reporting