



RECOMMENDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR STAFF AND INMATES IN THE INSTITUTIONS

The California Correctional Health Care Services' (CCHCS) and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) priority is to protect the health of our staff and inmate population. This document is intended to provide guidance on the type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use within our institutions as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The PPE recommended for staff and incarcerated people depends on the level of contact they have with COVID-19 cases and/or contaminated materials. All institutions should follow the CDC's guidance for PPE use in order to protect the health of our staff and the inmate population and/or additional recommendations from CCHCS/CDCR exceeding CDC guidelines. The current CDC's recommended PPE for the staff and inmates is listed on the "TABLE 11.2: COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Health Care and Public Health Providers", which can be found using the links below.

<https://cchcs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/COVID19/Table11-2-RecommendedPPE.pdf>
<https://cchcs.ca.gov/covid-19-interim-guidance/>

Currently, there are reports of asymptomatic infections (detection of virus with no development of symptoms) and pre-symptomatic infections (detection of virus prior to development of symptoms) with SARS-CoV-2. All staff and inmates are required to practice proper and frequent hand hygiene, follow the 6-foot social distancing and the cloth/face coverings rules while on institutional grounds in order to avoid potential exposure. Staff who are engaged in patient care activities are required to wear appropriate PPE. The purpose of this document is to address two areas, choice of PPE in specific situations throughout the institution when the 6-foot social distancing is not feasible and the length of time an individual could safely wear the N95 respirator.

1. Choice of PPE in specific situations throughout the institution when the 6-foot social distancing is not feasible.

Since the CDC does not describe the use of PPE in each specific situation, staff should apply the principle of the CDC's guidance to the daily scenario they encounter when determining the choice of PPE. The PPE user should identify the risk levels and adhere to Standard Precautions and Transmission-based Precautions. This information can be located at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html#adhere>

The examples below include application of PPE's following CDC recommendations; however, in an attempt to further protect staff and patients and by mitigating further exposure, increased testing and additional PPE recommendations exceeding CDC guidelines may be in place and recommended for areas below. In the event of a conflicting

direction between CDC and CCHCS/CDCR, the stricter form of protection shall be followed.

a. The Receiving and Release (R & R) Processing Area

During a face-to-face interview

- Staff should wear the N95 respirator, eye protection, gloves, and a gown.

b. The Reception Center (RC)

During a face-to-face interview

- From the county jail
 - Staff should wear the N95 respirator, eye protection, gloves, and a gown.

c. Custody escort (of an asymptomatic patient)

The escorting custody staff should know and/or coordinate with healthcare regarding the contact history of the asymptomatic patient before determining if a full set of PPE (the N95 respirator, eye protection, gloves, and gowns) is required. See Appendix One below for guidance.

d. Quarantine/isolated areas

Staff that is permanently assigned to quarantine and/or isolated areas should at a minimum wear the N95 respirator and additional PPE items as needed e.g., gloves, gowns and face shields if social distancing is not possible.

e. Transferring (by vehicle) inmate/patients from one area to another

- Transportation staff should at a minimum wear the N95 respirator and additional PPE items are required e.g., gloves, gowns and face shields if social distancing is not possible.
- Inmate/patient: cloth mask

2. The length of time an individual could safely wear the N95 respirator.

The length of time an individual could safely wear the N95 respirator is different from person to person. The N95 respirator can be worn for a maximum of eight hours. However, if an individual has difficulty breathing through the respirator after a short time, e.g., half an hour, he/she should remove and discard the respirator.

Appendix One: Choice of PPE in Specific Situations Throughout the Institution

Locations	Staff					Inmate
	N95 Respirator	Face Mask*	Eye Protection	Gloves	Gowns	Cloth mask*
The R & R Processing Areas and/or Reception Centers (RC)						
• Symptomatic patient or confirmed/suspected COVID-19 patient	√**		√	√	√	√
• patient (if comes from the institution/jail)***	√**		√	√	√	√
Custody Escort of:						
• Symptomatic patient or confirmed/suspected COVID-19 patient	√**		√	√	√	√
• Asymptomatic patient***	–	√	√	√	–	√
Transport Vehicle						
• All transfers	√**		√	√	√	√
Housing Unit						
• Symptomatic patient or confirmed/suspected COVID-19 patient	√**		√	√	√	√
• Asymptomatic patient***	–	√	√	√	–	√
Outpatient Housing Unit (OHU)						
• Symptomatic patient or confirmed/suspected COVID-19 patient	√**		√	√	√	√
• Asymptomatic patient***	–	√	√	√	–	√
Correctional Treatment Center (CTC)						
• Symptomatic patient or confirmed/suspected COVID-19 patient	√**		√	√	√	√
• Asymptomatic patient***	–	√	√	√	–	√
Others: Staff present during						
• Procedure on a confirmed/suspected COVID-19 case that may generate respiratory aerosols	√	–	√	√	√	–
• Collection of diagnostic respiratory specimens	√**		√	√	√	–

* Cloth mask is not PPE. Put a face mask on the patient if he/she has no cloth mask for source control. (Face mask includes surgical mask, procedure mask, medical mask...etc)

** The N95 respirator or equivalent is required.

*** PPE user should determine the reliability of the “Asymptomatic patient status” when the inmate-patient claims that he/she has no symptoms.