When to use a surgical face mask or FFP3 respirator

When caring for patients with suspected or confirmed infectious respiratory virus, all healthcare workers need to – prior to any patient interaction – assess the infectious risk posed to themselves and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimise that risk.

### When to use a surgical face mask

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In cohorted area (but no patient contact)</th>
<th>Close patient contact (within one metre)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>For example:</strong> Cleaning the room, equipment cleaning, discharge patient room cleaning, etc</td>
<td><strong>For example:</strong> Providing patient care, direct home care visit, diagnostic imaging, phlebotomy services, physiotherapy, etc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PPE to be worn**

- Surgical face mask (along with other designated PPE for cleaning)
- Apron
- Gloves
- Eye protection (if risk of contamination of eyes by splashes or droplets)

### When to use an FFP3 respirator

**Carrying out potentially infectious aerosol generating procedures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>For example:</strong> bronchoscopy, endotracheal intubation, tracheostomy procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, diagnostic sputum induction:</th>
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**Where a patient is known/suspected to have an infection spread via the aerosol route**

**When caring for patients known/suspected to be infected with a newly identified infectious respiratory virus**

**PPE to be worn**

- FFP3 respirator
- Gown
- Gloves
- Eye protection

- Fit testing should be carried out by a properly trained competent fit tester.
- Other guidance is available on bacterial infections and pulmonary tuberculosis

These images are for illustrative purposes only. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

**Remember**

- PPE should be put on and removed in an order that minimises the potential for cross-contamination.
- The order for PPE removal is gloves, apron or gown, eye protection, surgical face mask or FFP3 respirator.
- Hand hygiene must always be performed following removal of PPE.
- Healthcare workers who have had influenza vaccination, or confirmed influenza infection, are still advised to use the above infection control precautions.