

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

SUSTAINED TRANSMISSION – COVID 19

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) GUIDANCE FOR SOCIAL CARE STAFF SCOTTISH BORDERS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROVIDERS)

1. Overview

In line with NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council has adopted a risk assessment of ‘sustained transmission’ across the Scottish Borders. To that end all Social Care staff are required to now wear full PPE in line with table 1 while providing care. This is to protect you as carers and all clients across the Borders area.

2. PPE Guidance – sustained transmission

2.1. Guidance

- The PPE Guidance given in the table below is relative to COVID-19 protection measures and movement to a risk assessment of ‘sustained transmission’ within the Scottish Borders.
- Staff are now required to wear PPE where carrying out any direct patient/resident care or when assessing an individual and they are working within 2m of that individual. This applies to all clients, not just those who are confirmed or symptomatic of COVID-19.
- This guidance is based on the arrangements necessary for protection as provided for in NHS and all other relevant professional guidance.
- Supply levels of PPE are currently adequate and we appreciate the efforts staff are making to use PPE carefully to ensure we have enough for everyone to work safely.
- All carers will be supplied with necessary PPE from Community Assistance Hubs. Eye protection will be made available in line with guidance below - each carer will be provided with a minimum of two pieces of re-useable eye protection and the appropriate cleaning materials.
- Eye protection must be cleaned in compliance with instructions below.

Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Aprons	Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask	Eye/face protection (Visor)
Person’s own home - person shielding				
Direct patient/resident care & assessing an individual. Guidance applies to all client contacts within the same room, irrespective of whether client is symptomatic or not.	Must be used, single use only	Must be used, single use only	Must be used, single use only	Must be used Sessional use Re – useable when cleaned in compliance with guidelines (Ref 6)
Person’s own home - non shielding				
Direct patient/resident care & assessing an individual. Guidance applies to all client contacts within the same room, irrespective of whether client is symptomatic or not.	Must be used, single use only	Must be used, single use only	Must be used, single use only	Must be used Sessional Use Re – useable when cleaned in compliance with guidelines (Ref 6)
Residential Care				
Direct patient/resident care & assessing an individual. Guidance applies to all client contacts within the same room, irrespective of whether client is symptomatic or not.	Must be used, single use only	Must be used, single use only	Must be used, can be worn for sessional use within care home	Must be used Sessional Use Re – useable when cleaned in compliance with guidelines (Ref6)

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SUSTAINED TRANSMISSION – COVID 19

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2.2. Sessional Use

A single session refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g.

- a care home round
- visiting a home care client

A session **ends** when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment.

- Disposable PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
- Reusable PPE (i.e. eye protection - visors) should be cleaned between each session with cleaning products supplied.

3. Donning and doffing of PPE

3.1. Pre donning instructions

- Ensure hydrated.
- Tie hair back.
- Remove jewellery including rings (where possible).
- Check PPE in the correct size is available.

3.2. Donning of PPE

- Perform hand hygiene before putting on PPE.
- Put on facemask if required – position upper straps on the crown of your head, lower strap at nape of neck.
- With both hands, mould the strap over the bridge of your nose.
- Put on apron and tie at waist.
- Don eye protection if required.
- Put on gloves.

3.3. Doffing of PPE

- Remove PPE in the hall reception area.
- Remove gloves. Grasp the outside of glove with the opposite gloved hand; peel off. Hold the removed glove in the remaining gloved hand. Slide the fingers of the un-gloved hand under the remaining glove at the wrist. Peel the remaining glove off over the first glove and discard.
- Decontaminate hands.
- Remove eye protection if worn.
- Apron - unfasten or break apron ties at the neck and let the apron fold down on itself. Break ties at waist and fold apron in on itself – do not touch the outside – this will be contaminated.
- Remove mask Use both hands to handle the straps by pulling away from face and discard.
- Hands and lower arms should be washed with soap and water after all PPE has been removed. If hand washing is not appropriate please use hand sanitiser.
- Do not re-enter the care area or go within the same room as the person receiving care once PPE removed.

3.4. Disposing of PPE

- Dispose of PPE and personal waste (e.g. used tissues and disposable cleaning cloths) securely within disposable bags. When full, the disposable bags should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.

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- These bags should be stored for 72 hours before being put out for collection in general waste.
- Other household waste can be disposed of as normal

4. Accessing PPE (gloves, aprons, masks, eye protection)

- All carers and organisations should procure from usual supplier to access PPE in the first instance.
- Where supplies cannot be obtained from usual supply routes:
 - Registered organisations should contact the National Triage Centre to request PPE and collect from Community Assistance Hubs (CAH's).
 - Non registered organisations suppliers should contact the CAHs directly and 7 days stock will be supplied based on number of visits and or residents.
 - Where registered organisations cannot access adequate stock from triage additional stock will be provided from CAHs up to 7 days stock based on number of visits and or residents.
 - Visors will be supplied from CAH's directly from SBC.

5. Eye protection issue

- Each carer will be issued with a minimum of 2 pieces of eye protection.
- These should be stored in a clean environment.
- These can be collected from your local Community Assistance Hubs's (CAH's).

6. Eye protection cleaning process (visors)

- Between client contacts visors must be cleaned thoroughly with supplied antibacterial spray and cloths.
- Staff need to wear gloves and aprons for cleaning of visors.
- Any heavily soiled or damaged visors must be disposed of in line with PPE disposal guidance.
- Staff should ensure good infection control practices while cleaning visors and whilst removing and donning masks so as not to come into contact with the visor.
- Strict hand washing guidelines should be followed after touching visors.

7. Eye protection - visor defects

- Please check your visor after each wear.
- Eye protection should be disposed of in line with PPE disposal if your visor is cracked or faulty in anyway.
- Please contact the CAH's to collect replacement visors.

8. Contacting the Hubs

You can access the Hubs at:

Email: covid-19community@scotborders.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 100 1800, Option 7

Social Work Office locations:

Newtown St. Duns

Kelso Hospital

Abbotsford Rd, Galashiels

Town Hall Hawick

Rosetta Rd, Peebles