

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

SUSTAINED TRANSMISSION – COVID 19

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) GUIDANCE FOR SOCIAL WORK STAFF

1. Overview

In line with NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council have adopted a risk assessment of 'sustained transmission' across Scottish Borders.

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 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. PPE **is not** required if it is possible to maintain Social Distancing of 2m or more.
- 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 Staff will be supplied with necessary PPE from Community Assistance Hubs –Eye protection will be made available in line with guidance below.
- Eye protection must be cleaned in compliance with instructions below

Table 1

Setting	Setting	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Aprons	Fluid-resistant surgical mask	Eye protection
Person's own home - person shielding	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 and cannot practice Social Distancing of 2m or more	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)
Hospital or Residential Care and cannot practice Social Distancing of 2m or more	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	Must be used Sessional Use Re – useable when cleaned in compliance with guidelines (Ref6)

2.2 Sessional Use

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

- visiting a client at home.

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 or soiled.

- 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.
- 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. Eye protection Issue

- Staff who will have to visit a client at home 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)

5. 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

6. 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.

7. Contacting the Hubs

You can access the Hubs by emailing covid-19community@scotborders.gov.uk or phoning 0300 100 1800 and selecting Option 7

Locations – Social Work Offices

- Newtown St. Duns
- Kelso Hospital
- Abbotsford Rd, Galashiels
- Town Hall Hawick
- Rosetta Rd, Peebles