

# COVID-19 Q&A

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## **PPE Safety Checklist & Agreement**

***I work in an ambulatory clinic and interact with patients regularly as part of my role. Do I need to change into work specific clothing and footwear in the work area?***

In order to reduce the spread of contaminants in any workplace it is recommended that staff have dedicated footwear for any role inside a PHC facility. Clothing can be taken home for laundering on a daily basis. Once you enter the building you can then change. You do not need to wait until you reach your work area.

***As a clinician in an outpatient department, my work is almost only virtual health visiting with patients. Do I need to complete this checklist?***

The checklist is an agreement by the individual that they are committed to following the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health during a pandemic. The purpose of the checklist is twofold:

- 1) To bring each employee awareness on education and training they have completed and/or need to complete.
- 2) To demonstrate, in the case of a COVID outbreak, that they are knowledgeable and have access to resources on COVID safety measures.

***Is it mandatory for me to complete this checklist?***

In the event of an outbreak, Public Health requires PHC to provide evidence of staff education and preparedness. For that reason and for the safety of our patients, we are making completion of the checklist mandatory.

***Can I write N/A beside a list item?***

No. Answering N/A is not acceptable. This checklist is intended for all staff. If we are going to help hold each other accountable for best practice, we all need to know the standards.

***Is the list you circulated intended for all staff or just clinical staff?***

All staff.

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***The PPE acute [recommendations \(page 31-32\)](#) don't indicate whether PPE is required in non-clinical areas. However, we often work in close quarters in these areas, so have been using masks. Have we misinterpreted the guidelines?***

No matter where you work the principles of PPE use apply. When unable to physically distance from others at all times, then PPE use is required. As we invite more people back to our work sites, the ability to reliably maintain social distancing in non-clinical areas becomes more and more difficult. So with extended use of mask and eye protection, and in your own personal interest and for the benefit of all, the use of PPE in non-clinical areas makes sense.

***Is attending an in-person PPE session mandatory for non-clinical staff? Aren't they more clinically focused? We are planning to send a staff member to be trained this month and we can do our own education sessions for staff as well.***

It is incumbent on each individual working in this organization to determine the level of training and support required in order to ensure appropriate use of PPE. Live sessions are offered in order to provide the highest level of support for anyone unfamiliar or uncomfortable with proper use.

***In ambulatory areas (including the Heart Function Clinic, PACH, Healthy Heart Program, etc.) we are seeing some patients in-person. Should the PPE recommendations be followed in these settings as well, or only in acute and long term care settings?***

No matter where at PHC you work, the principles of PPE use apply.

***What does it mean to attend a PPE session? Is this watching a video, attending a unit session or attending a formal training session?***

I have attended a PPE session means exactly that - whether in person, via Zoom/Skype, a PHC recommended video, a drop in session or a hallway one on one.

***Is the hospital providing lockers for the shoes to be stored?***

Speak to your direct supervisor about space availability.

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## ***Who must wear uniform/scrubs for outpatient ambulatory areas?***

There is a new professional image policy being created imminently, but for now you can access the policy on SHOP.

## ***Are staff who are seeing patients in clinical settings required to wear scrubs?***

“Scrubs” are provided and laundered by PHC for areas like the operating room. “Uniforms” are not laundered by PHC and are the usual dress for the professional in a clinical area. It is up to the Patient Care Manager to decide if uniforms are appropriate for the work/care being done.

## ***Registration clerks at reception – are they required to wear scrubs?***

This is a decision for the Patient Care Manager.

## ***I am Medical Office Assistant working in a private office in the hospital – am I required to wear scrubs?***

This answer to this question may differ for each setting. Please talk to your manager to help you determine this.