

PPE requirements for ophthalmology

The following PPE advice is based on Public Health England (PHE) recommendations updated on 7 April 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

The advice, which is consistent with PHE guidance, is intended for use by ophthalmic clinical staff providing hospital-based eye care. If you have been redeployed elsewhere in the hospital, please ensure that you are aware of the PPE requirements of your new role.

1. If you are working in **outpatients or an Accident and Emergency department**, you should use:
 - Disposable gloves - single use
 - Disposable plastic apron - single use
 - Fluid resistant Type IIR surgical mask - sessional use
 - Eye/face protection – sessional use
 - Slit lamp breath guard

2. If you are working in an **operating theatre where aerosol generating procedures (AGP) are being performed** you should use:
 - Disposable gloves - single use
 - Disposable fluid resistant gown - single (if you are doing the AGP) or sessional use
 - Filtering face piece respirator mask - single (if you are doing the AGP) or sessional use
 - Eye/face protection - single (if you are doing the AGP) or sessional use

3. If you are working in an **operating theatre where AGPs are not being performed** you should use:
 - Disposable gloves - single use
 - Disposable plastic apron (or fluid resistant gown if splashes are likely) - single use
 - Fluid resistant Type IIR surgical mask - sessional use
 - Eye/face protection – sessional use

4. If you are asked to **visit a ward or another hospital department** you should:
 - Consider whether telephone advice can be given
 - Establish what PPE is required for the particular ward or department and where the necessary equipment can be obtained. As a minimum you should wear
 - Disposable gloves
 - Disposable plastic apron
 - Fluid resistant Type IIR surgical mask
 - Eye/face protection

The use of eye/face protection should be risk assessed, taking into account the requirement for protection from Covid infection versus the practical limitations of the device affecting the view or ability to perform an ophthalmic procedure.

Patients should be asked to wear masks at the discretion of the clinical ophthalmology team.

Single use = disposal or decontamination of device between each patient/procedure, dispose at end of session
Sessional use = dispose at end of session eg at the end of morning clinic or when leaving the care setting