The following guide outlines the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for maternity and neonatal services during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response. Standardising the use of PPE in maternity and neonatal settings ensures that healthcare workers are protected from infection and PPE is used appropriately.

Table 1 outlines the recommended PPE for healthcare workers who are in direct contact with a person who is: assessed as low or no risk for COVID-19; or is confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 or is in quarantine.

Table 2 outlines new recommendations for women in active labour.

Table 3 outlines recommended PPE use for the provision of neonatal care.

Table 4 provides further guidance to assist in clarifying the required PPE for common circumstances.

Please note that other infectious diseases requiring PPE as part of transmission-based precautions are not addressed in this document.

**This guidance is reviewed on a two weekly basis and updated as required.**

**Associated guidance available online**

This document should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

Table 1: Maternity Services Conventional use

Due to the current high prevalence of COVID-19 in Victoria and advice regarding the universal use of masks in the community, Tier 0 is currently not applicable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIER</th>
<th>For use in in-patient, out-patient and community settings</th>
<th>Hand hygiene</th>
<th>Disposable gloves</th>
<th>Level 1 gown and plastic apron</th>
<th>Disposable gown</th>
<th>Surgical mask</th>
<th>P2 / N95 respirator</th>
<th>Eye protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 – Area of higher clinical risk</td>
<td>In areas where the person is NOT suspected(^2) or confirmed to have COVID-19</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 – Droplet and contact precautions</td>
<td>Limited contact, for short episodes of care, in a controlled environment with a woman who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3 – Airborne and contact precautions and Aerosol Generating Procedures</td>
<td>1. Undertaking an AGP(^3) on a woman with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. 2. Caesarean section, even if under spinal anaesthetic in case of conversion to general anaesthetic, for a woman suspected or confirmed COVID-19. 3. Settings where suspected(^2) or confirmed COVID-19 positive women are cohorted, where frequent, prolonged episodes of care are provided. 4. Settings where suspected(^2) or confirmed COVID-19 women are cohorted and there is risk of unplanned AGPs and/or aerosol generating behaviours(^4).</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Suspected includes person in quarantine or where a history cannot be obtained.
3. AGPs = aerosol-generating procedures. Examples include: tracheal intubation, non-invasive ventilation (e.g. BiPAP, CPAP), high flow nasal oxygen therapy, manual ventilation before intubation, intubation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, suctioning, etc. See [COVID-19 Infection Control Guideline (Word)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid19-infection-control-guidelines).
4. Aerosol generating behaviour = screaming, shouting, crying out, vomiting as may be evident during the late first stage and second stage of labour, particularly in the absence of epidural analgesia.
### Table 2: Maternity services – for use during actively labour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID status</th>
<th>For use in birth settings during active labour</th>
<th>Hand hygiene</th>
<th>Disposable gloves</th>
<th>Plastic apron</th>
<th>Disposable gown</th>
<th>Surgical mask</th>
<th>P2 / N95 respirator⁵</th>
<th>Eye protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID test negative and asymptomatic</td>
<td>COVID test is negative and the woman is asymptomatic</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 unknown</td>
<td>COVID-19 status is unknown</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCOVID (Suspected COVID-19)</td>
<td>Woman is symptomatic of COVID-19</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 positive</td>
<td>COVID-19 test is positive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For use in in-patient, out-patient and community settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For use in in-patient, out-patient and community settings</th>
<th>Hand hygiene</th>
<th>Disposable gloves</th>
<th>Plastic apron</th>
<th>Disposable gown</th>
<th>Surgical mask</th>
<th>P2 / N95 respirator⁵</th>
<th>Eye protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard precautions</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>As per standard precautions</td>
<td>As per standard precautions</td>
<td>As per standard precautions</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Droplet and contact precautions</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to the current high prevalence of COVID-19 in Victoria and advice regarding the universal use of masks in the community, Tier 0 is currently not applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIER</th>
<th>Further context – examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Tier 1 – Area of higher clinical risk** | In areas where the person is NOT suspected\(^2\) or confirmed to have COVID-19  
- Staff not involved in the direct care of COVID-19 patients  
- Undertaking surgery or AGPs on patients confirmed as COVID-19 negative or who are screened as low risk  
- Patients with aerosol generating behaviours who are not confirmed or suspected of COVID-19 |
| **Tier 2 – Droplet and contact precautions** | Limited contact, for short episodes of care, in a controlled environment with a person who is suspected\(^2\) or confirmed to have COVID-19.  
- Patient transfer within a facility of a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases  
- Cleaning and disinfection of room where there has been no AGP performed or if 30 mins has elapsed since the AGP  
- Staff at ambulance arrival and handover areas where the patient is confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19  
- Handling deceased persons with confirmed/suspected COVID-19  
- Family members and visitors to a person with COVID-19 at a hospital  
- Health care worker transporting suspected COVID-19 patients in ambulance |
| **Tier 3 – Airborne and contact precautions and Aerosol Generating Procedures** | 1. Undertaking an AGP\(^6\) on a person with suspected\(^2\) or confirmed COVID-19  
2. Settings where suspected\(^2\) or confirmed COVID-19 patients are cohorted, where frequent, prolonged episodes of care are provided  
3. In uncontrolled settings where suspected\(^2\) or confirmed COVID-19 patients are cohorted, to avoid the need for frequent changes of N95/P2 respirators  
- Health care workers in dedicated COVID-19 wards (even if treating suspected covid-19 patients)  
- Health care workers in areas within Emergency Departments or Urgent Care Centres where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are being treated  
- Health care workers within an open intensive care unit (if suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are present)  
- Health care workers within an intensive care unit pod/room (if suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are present) |

\(^{6}\) AGPs = aerosol-generating procedures. Examples include: bronchoscopy, tracheal intubation, non-invasive ventilation (e.g. BiPAP, CPAP), high flow nasal oxygen therapy, manual ventilation before intubation, intubation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, suctioning, sputum induction, nebuliser use (nebulisers should be discouraged and alternatives considered such as a spacer). See [COVID-19 Infection Control Guideline](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid19-infection-control-guidelines).
4. Settings where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are cohorted and there is risk of unplanned AGPs and/or aerosol generating behaviours.  

- Health care worker providing prolonged disability support (if there is a suspected and or confirmed COVID-19 patient within the service  
- Cleaning and disinfection of a room where there has been an AGP performed within the previous 30 mins  

References  

To receive this document in another format phone 1300 651 160 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email Project Management Office Communications <COVID-19PMO-Communications@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.  

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.  
© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health and Human Services, 2 September 2020.  

---  

7 Aerosol generating behaviour = screaming, shouting, crying out, vomiting