



## COVID-19 – PPE guidance firefighters and frontline staff

9th April 2020

### NFCC Guidance

PPE guidance for firefighters and frontline staff when in interacting with members of the public

### Introduction

The guidance below has been issued based on the information published by Public Health England on the 7th of April 2020 and will be updated accordingly.

### Activities

**1. Aerosol Generated Procedures (AGP) or activities requiring close contact with people confirmed or suspected of having COVID19 e.g. PMART, Ambulance Support, CPR, Direct Casualty Care.**

List PPE – NFCC **minimum** requirements

- 2x pairs of Nitrile Gloves (taped at wristband recommended for PMART activities)
- PHE recommended Face Mask or equivalent i.e. Respirator / BA Set\*
- **The minimum of a FFP3 Face Mask is required for AGP.**
- Fluid resistant coverall suit / Fire Kit \*
- Eye protection

If practical, a fluid resistant surgical face mask should be used on the patient/casualty to limit any spread of the virus

**2. Activities requiring interaction with people confirmed or suspected of having COVID19 where a distance of 2m CANNOT be maintained. e.g. Ambulance support**

- Nitrile Gloves
- Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) or higher
- Fluid resistant coverall suit / Apron / Fire Kit only \*\*
- Eye protection

If practical a fluid resistant surgical face mask should be used on the patient/casualty to limit any spread of the virus

**3. Activities requiring interaction with people confirmed or suspected of having COVID19 where a distance of 2m CAN be maintained. E.g. Doorstep deliveries / High Risk HFSC's**

- Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) – if entering property

- Nitrile Gloves

#### **4. Activities requiring close contact with people where COVID 19 is not suspected i.e. ring removal, assisting ambulance**

- 2x pair Nitrile Gloves
- Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) or higher
- Eye protection

If practical a fluid resistant surgical face mask should be used on the patient/casualty to limit any spread of the virus

#### **5. Activities requiring interaction with people where COVID 19 is NOT suspected but a distance of 2m CANNOT be maintained. e.g. High Risk Home Fire Safety Visit**

- Nitrile Gloves
- Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) or higher
- Eye protection

If practical a fluid resistant surgical face mask should be used on the patient/casualty to limit any spread of the virus

#### **6. Activities requiring interaction with people where COVID 19 is NOT suspected and a distance of 2m CAN be maintained. e.g. Doorstep deliveries / High Risk HFSC's**

- Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) – if entering property
- Nitrile gloves

#### **7. Activities where control measures have been put in place previously to prevent any potential spread of COVID-19 either suspected or confirmed e.g. Body Movements, Mortuary Support**

- Nitrile Gloves
- Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (IIR type) or higher
- Fluid Resistant Coverall or Apron
- Eye Protection

\* requires immediate decontamination after use

\*\* consider decontamination after use subject to intervention made

#### **Additional considerations**

The descriptors above detail the level of PPE that is recommended by the NFCC in relation to COVID-19, based on the most recent PHE guidance. This guidance should be adopted by FRS staff as a minimum for the care of all possible COVID-19 cases; a dynamic risk assessment should be carried out to determine if a higher level or additional PPE is required.

Although not recommended should any Service seek to reduce the level of protection provided any deviation should be subject of a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

The NFCC recognise that a risk-assessed alternative may be substituted in some cases i.e. fire kit as an alternative to coverall suit with appropriate decontamination procedures adopted.

Equally should the specified PPE be unavailable, a risk-assessed alternative level of PPE may be substituted i.e. Breathing Apparatus or Respirator with fire kit or fluid repellent coveralls.

The NFCC acknowledge that some services may wish to default to an alternative level of protection on occasion, again subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

## **Notes**