



When to use a surgical face mask or FFP3 respirator

When caring for patients with **suspected or confirmed infectious respiratory virus**, all healthcare workers need to – prior to any patient interaction – assess the infectious risk posed to themselves and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimise that risk.

When to use a surgical face mask



In cohorted area (but no patient contact)

For example:
Cleaning the room, equipment cleaning, discharge patient room cleaning, etc

Close patient contact (within one metre)

For example:
Providing patient care, direct home care visit, diagnostic imaging, phlebotomy services, physiotherapy, etc

PPE to be worn

- Surgical face mask (along with other designated PPE for cleaning)

PPE to be worn

- Surgical face mask
- Apron
- Gloves
- Eye protection (if risk of contamination of eyes by splashes or droplets)

When to use an FFP3 respirator



- Carrying out potentially infectious aerosol generating procedures

For example:
bronchoscopy, endotracheal intubation, tracheostomy procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, diagnostic sputum induction:

- Where a patient is known/suspected to have an infection spread via the aerosol route
- When caring for patients known/suspected to be infected with a newly identified infectious respiratory virus

PPE to be worn

- FFP3 respirator
- Gown
- Gloves
- Eye protection

- Fit testing should be carried out by a properly trained competent fit tester.
- Other guidance is available on bacterial infections and pulmonary tuberculosis

These images are for illustrative purposes only. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Remember

- PPE should be put on and removed in an order that minimises the potential for cross-contamination.
- The order for PPE removal is gloves, apron or gown, eye protection, surgical face mask or FFP3 respirator.
- Hand hygiene must always be performed following removal of PPE.
- Healthcare workers who have had influenza vaccination, or confirmed influenza infection, are still advised to use the above infection control precautions.