When to use a **surgical face mask** or **FFP3 respirator**

When caring for patients with **suspected or confirmed COVID-19**, 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.

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**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
  - **PPE to be worn**
    - Surgical face mask (along with other designated PPE for cleaning)

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

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**When to use an FFP3 respirator**

- **When carrying out aerosol generating procedures (AGP) on a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19**
  - **In high risk areas where AGPs are being conducted** (eg: ICU)
  - **The AGP list is:**
    - Intubation, extubation and related procedures such as manual ventilation and open suctioning
    - Tracheotomy/tracheostomy procedures (insertion/open suctioning/removal)
    - Bronchoscopy
    - Surgery and post-mortem procedures involving high-speed devices
    - Some dental procedures (such as high-speed drilling)
    - Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV) such as Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure ventilation (CPAP)
    - High-Frequency Oscillating Ventilation (HFOV)
    - High Flow Nasal Oxygen (HFNO), also called High Flow Nasal Cannula
    - Induction of sputum

  - **PPE to be worn**
    - FFP3 respirator
    - Long sleeved disposable gown
    - Gloves
    - Disposable eye protection

  - **Always fit check the respirator**

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**REMEMBER**

- PPE should be put on and removed in an order that minimises the potential for self-contamination
- The order for PPE removal is gloves, hand hygiene apron or gown, eye protection, hand hygiene, surgical face mask or FFP3 respirator, hand hygiene

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