



EMERGENCY HOMECARE PROTOCOLS

In response to the outbreak of the 2019-nCov the Ontario Personal Support Workers Association activated its Emergency Protocol Committee to draft protocols to be used by front line home care workers.

This committee formally recommends that all front line home care workers adopt the following to protect themselves from viral infection.

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EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS:

- 1.) Contact your client the night before and inquire as to their health. Example: ask if they are exhibiting symptoms of the Coronavirus (ie. Headache, coughing, shortness of breath and fever.)

Signs of Infections in Older Adults

If your client displays any of the following – report it to the local health authority

- A. Sudden or noticeable increase in confusion and delirium
 - B. Incontinence
 - C. Appetite loss
 - D. Reduced ability to perform ADL's
 - E. Falls
- 2.) PSWs should be wearing a regular Standard Medical Face Mask at this time. If the PSW is working with someone who may have the Coronavirus or has been in contact with someone infected with the 2019-nCov – the OPSWA strongly advises all PSWs to dress in full PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

3.) What is a PPE?

Personal protective equipment

Personal protective equipment is special equipment you wear to create a barrier between you and germs. This barrier reduces the chance of touching, being exposed to, and spreading germs.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) helps prevent the spread of germs in the hospital. This can protect people and health care workers from infections.

All hospital staff, patients, and visitors should use PPE when there will be contact with blood or other bodily fluids.

Types of PPE

Wearing gloves protects your hands from germs and helps reduce the spread of germs.



Masks cover your mouth and nose.

Some masks have a see-through plastic part that covers your eyes.

A surgical mask helps stop germs in your nose and mouth from spreading. It can also keep you from breathing in some germs.

A special respiratory mask (respirator) forms a tight seal around your nose and mouth. It may be needed so that you do not breathe in small germs like tuberculosis bacteria.

Eye protection includes face shields and goggles. These protect the mucous membranes in your eyes from blood and other bodily fluids. If these fluids make contact with the eyes, germs in the fluid can enter the body through the mucous membranes.

Clothing includes gowns, aprons, head covering, and shoe covers.

These are often used during surgery to protect you and the patient.

They are also used during surgery to protect you when you work with bodily fluids.

Visitors wear gowns if they are visiting a person who is in isolation due to an illness that can be easily spread.

You may need special PPE when handling some cancer drugs. This equipment is called cytotoxic PPE.

You may need to wear a gown with long sleeves and elastic cuffs. This gown should keep liquids from touching your skin.

You may also need to wear shoe covers, goggles, and special gloves.

Choosing the Correct PPE

You may need to use different types of PPE for different people. Your workplace has written instructions about when to wear PPE and what type to use. You need PPE when you care for people who are in isolation as well as other patients.

After a PPE is used

Remove and dispose of PPE safely to protect others from being exposed to germs. Before leaving your work area, remove all PPE and put it in the right place. This may include:

Special laundry containers that can be reused after cleaning

Special waste containers that are different from other waste containers

Specially marked bags for cytotoxic PPE

Source: <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000447.htm>

*** use a N-95 if available, if not use standard medical face mask but change as soon as mask becomes damp or wet. Always change mask between Clients/Residents/Patients.*



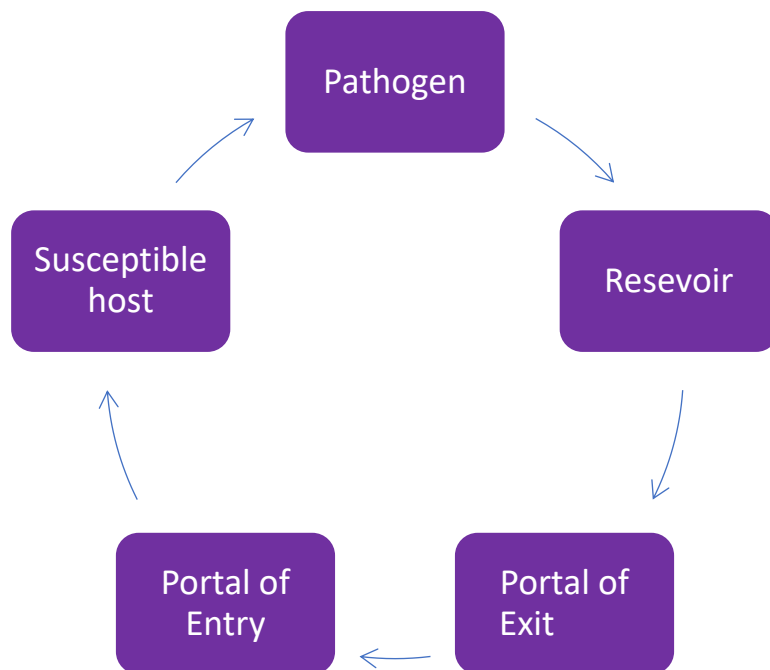
- 4.) PSWs should also remember to wash hands between each Patient/Client/Resident, the handwashing should be done properly and for 20 seconds each time.



- 5.) PSWs should change their gloves between each Patient/Client/Resident and when they return to their home.

- 6.) PSWs should remember to wear their indoor shoes inside the houses at all times. Do not wear your outside shoes in doors. Once you have removed your indoor shoes, promptly wipe them down with a Lysol wipe before wearing them at the next client.

PATHOGEN LIFE CYCLE:



Source: Potter, P.A., & Perry, A.G. (2009)



PSW DUTY OF CARE

A PSW who encounters a patient exhibiting the symptoms of the nCov 2019 AND refuses treatment must report this person to their local health authority immediately. The PSW will be under NO OBLIGATION to provide care to this individual once this action is completed.

TO REPORT

For Health Care Providers

Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health are developing guidance specific to 2019-nCoV. In the interim, two Ministry of Health MERS-CoV guidance documents are available and can be referenced until 2019-nCoV specific guidance is available. Please refer to the resources and links below. Health Care Providers considering the need to test a patient for 2019-nCoV should contact Public Health Ontario's Customer Service Centre at: 416-235-6556 / 1-877-604-4567 for advice and support.

Cited from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>