



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY
1610 NE 150th Street * Shoreline, Washington 98155-9701

Dear Healthcare Partners,

Washington State Department of Health supports healthcare workers using standard, contact, and droplet precautions when caring for patients who are confirmed to have or suspected to have Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). When coming in contact with or entering the patient area of a patient confirmed to have or suspected to have COVID-19, healthcare workers should don:

- facemask (procedure or surgical mask) AND
- gown AND
- gloves AND
- eye protection (goggles or face shield)
- N95 respirator or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) is required for aerosol-generating procedures

These personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations for healthcare workers caring for patients suspected of having or confirmed to have COVID-19 are not in line with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, but are in line with World Health Organization (WHO) guidance. This departure from CDC will allow Washington State healthcare providers to maintain consistent infection transmission precautions across multiple care settings.

We have partnered with the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) to develop healthcare signage reflecting the updated PPE recommendations:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/AirborneRespiratorContactPrecautionSign-nCoV.PDF>

WHO Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected:

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)

Regards,

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