

19 MAY 2020

Dear Providers and Community,

The Ministry of Health has developed and updated a number of resources related to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which can be found at <http://www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health>

The new and updated resources reflect New Zealand's move to Alert Level 2, as well feedback from the health and disability sector on how our existing PPE advice could be strengthened.

Two overarching documents for guidance on PPE use at Alert Level 2

1. PPE guidance when caring for people who have suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases in all health and disability care settings, including care provided in a person's home.
 - This updated guidance is intended as a high-level reference document and is aligned with setting specific guidance developed in previous Alert Levels.
 - For this information see <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/ppe-use-in-known-covid-19-health-disability-settings-v5.pdf>
2. Risk-assessment questions when caring for someone whose COVID-19 status is unknown.
 - This flow chart has been created to help health and disability carers to conduct a risk assessment to determine whether PPE is required when caring for people with unknown COVID-19 status.
 - For this information see https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/alert-level2-ppe-guideline-_for-unknown-covid-status-15may20.pdf

Updates to existing PPE guidance in specific health and disability settings

PPE guidance in specific health and disability settings have been updated to be consistent with Alert Level 2 rules and guidance. These are available at <http://www.health.govt.nz/ppe-health> and include:

- PPE use for community care providers: requirements for providing care in people's homes
- PPE use in hospitals: A guide for staff caring for COVID-19 positive people in hospital
- PPE use for disability support and care workers: A guide when working in client's homes
- PPE use in maternity settings: requirements to prevent COVID-19
- Frequently Asked Questions.

The Ministry will continue to review its advice as the COVID-19 situation evolves. We will update you on any changes as they become available.

Thank you to all who have provided feedback so far.

Kind regards,

Adri Isbister
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Disability
Ministry of Health