

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Update 3

15th April 2020

NHS

East of England
Ambulance Service
NHS Trust



Key Update:

Entering Hospital Departments

- Ambulance staff are **NOT** required to upgrade their PPE when entering different hospital departments.

PPE

- Full face visors should be worn when wearing level 3 PPE (particularly when wearing unshrouded FFP3 masks, where the filter is uncovered (e.g. 3M Aura 9332 mask). If the face shield becomes heavily contaminated this should be discarded as clinical waste (orange bag). If not, then it can be decontaminated appropriately.
- Donated PPE items should **NOT** be used by staff, as it has to be assessed for compliance against the standards. However, we should use the available PPE delivered by stores primarily and each area should have adequate stock.

Recent Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need to wear level 3 PPE when entering different hospital departments including ED/ Resus?

- If you have performed AGPs then you will already be wearing level 3 PPE so entering these areas will not cause any concern.
- If you have not performed AGPs, you should be wearing level 2 PPE.
- You are not required to change your level of PPE when entering those areas.
 - Hospital staff may work in those areas for prolonged times and may be in close contact with patients where AGPs are performed frequently.

What type of eye protection should be worn with FFP3 masks?

- Full face visors should be worn with level 3 PPE where they are available (goggles must be worn as a minimum).
 - This is due to some masks not having a shrouded valve, and so to mitigate the risk of **large** bodily fluid splashes contacting the filter (they still provide full protection against aerosols and droplets).
 - Where a full face shield is not available, a risk assessment of the risk of splashing should be undertaken, it is **NOT** advised to wear a fluid resistant surgical mask over the FFP3 facemask. If a large splash (as opposed to droplets) does occur, the FFP3 mask should be replaced immediately. Some level of eye protection must be worn with level 3 PPE, if a face shield is unavailable, alternative eye protection must be worn i.e goggles or safety glasses.

Why does the PPE guidance change?

- PPE guidance issued by the Trust comes from national and global guidelines. National communications occur frequently to update guidelines concerning changes in PPE requirements.
- Throughout an emerging situation the PPE requirements and precautionary measures will generally be high and as the situation is understood further the guidelines can change to fit what is known to be safe practice.
- Changes to PPE do not mean the protection level previously was inadequate, but the developing situation will result in change of requirements i.e risk of community transmission may become more likely so the PPE requirements will be modified to fit the risk.
- Wearing PPE (such as coveralls and FFP3) when there are no AGPs being performed is unnecessary.
 - Level 2 PPE (along with other standard precautions) protects against contact and droplets, which is the predominant transmission mode of COVID-19.

Supplies update:

- All areas are receiving regular stock deliveries (twice per week).
- All items of PPE required are currently available in the Trust but it is important that these are used when necessary and not under the provision that it is 'extra protection'.