

Outpatient PPE Guidance for Health Care Personnel and Patient Interactions

Recommended guidance for COVID specific PPE when Healthcare personnel interact with patients NOT suspected of having COVID . For patients who are COVID suspect and /or screen+follow Aerosolized Generating Procedure.

All patients who can be masked should be masked with every interaction particularly when leaving the room to travel and go to other units ie radiology. Patients should be screened prior to arriving at facility for exposure risk and symptoms.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS

No pre-visit COVID test within 48-72 hrs. COVID recommended

No N95 mask

Procedure mask

Faceshield (if patient is masked face shield is at the discretion of provider) If patient is unmasked or at risk of unmasking during visit then face shield during visit.

Hand hygiene every patient at the discretion of provider

Gloves for injection

No gown, headcovers, footcovers

Wipe down high touch surfaces and reusable medical equipment between patients

MENTAL HEALTH COVID + WARDS

N95 mask preferred

N95 mask for patient care preferred but a procedure mask may be used for short direct care

Face shield yes, clean if soiled

Gloves yes, change between patients, hand hygiene every patient

Gown yes, change if soiled

Hand/foot covers only for aerosolizing procedures otherwise unnecessary

Room cleaning see COVID tool kit for standard procedures on discharges and/or transfers

MENTAL HEALTH NON COVID WARD

N95 mask	no
Procedure mask	yes
Faceshield	at discretion of provider and if patient likely to unmask
Gloves	pre COVID standard precautions, no enhanced precautions
Head/foot covers	only for aerosolizing procedures otherwise not necessary
Gown	pre COVID standard precautions, no enhanced precautions
Room cleaning	standard cleaning

Aerosol Generating Procedures

- Endotracheal intubation and extubation
- Sputum induction
- Manual ventilation
- CPR
- Open suctioning of airways
- Bronchoscopy
- Non-invasive ventilation eg. BiPAP, CPAP

Developed by VA considering recommendations of VACO (VA Central Office), JCAHO, CDC, WHO and Society Guidelines.