

## Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in non-health care settings

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) should be based on your organization's Occupational Health and Safety protocols and/or a risk assessment based on the activities that will be performed.

COVID-19 is mainly spread through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing or talking. The virus is not spread in the air. Surfaces can be contaminated with the virus, including a person's hands. Some people may be infectious without knowing it, as they may not have symptoms.

Maintaining a two metre distance from others, washing hands often and staying home when sick are the best measures for your protection.

Wearing a non-medical (cloth) mask or face covering may protect others from your respiratory droplets, though it may not protect you from infection. Medical masks should be used saved for health care workers.

Using other PPE such as gloves, goggles, face mask, gowns, etc., need to be used properly if required. Not using PPE appropriately can lead to contamination and further spread of germs.

The following resources and guidance documents will help identify when PPE is required and how services can be restructured to protect the health and safety of staff, volunteers and clients.

### City of Toronto resources:

- [Guidance on the use of non-medical masks](#) (April 8)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Workplaces / Businesses and Employers](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Community-Based Service Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Food Banks and Donation Centres](#)
- [COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Homelessness Service Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Tips for Homelessness Service Setting Providers](#)
- [Infection Prevention & Control Resources for Homelessness Service Settings](#)
- [Toronto Public Health Pandemic Plan: A Planning Guide for Housing Service Providers and Shelters](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for the Use of Face Masks and Coverings by the Public](#)
- [Should I Wear a Cloth Mask?](#) (infographic)
- [How to Safely Wear a Mask](#) (infographic)
- [How to Self-Isolate](#)

- [Strategies for Community Partners to Increase Physical Distancing and Reduce Spread of COVID-19](#)

**Province of Ontario resources:**

- [Ministry of Health Guidance for Health and Other Sectors](#)
- [COVID-19: When and How to Wear a Mask, Recommendations for the General Public](#)
- [Recommended Steps: Putting on Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Group Home and Co-Living Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Homeless Shelters](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Home and Community Care Providers](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Consumption and Treatment Services \(CST\) Sites](#)

**Government of Canada resources:**

- [Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health Communication: Use of Non-Medical Masks by the Public \(news release\)](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and Risks](#)
- [Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace: Employers, Employees and Essential Service Workers](#)