

Personal protective equipment (PPE) operational guidance

To be circulated to all police officers and staff

Explanatory note to accompany **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) operational guidance: practical scenarios**. Please read in conjunction with this document.

The recommendation in all scenarios is officers have PPE readily available and as a minimum that this is a fluid resistant surgical mask (IIR) and gloves (non-latex).

Leadership

It is imperative that all supervisors ensure all their officers and staff have access to sufficient supplies of PPE and that it is used in accordance with this guidance. The threat of infection from COVID 19 remains high and we want everyone to protect themselves and others at all times. Supervisors should lead by example and monitor and check compliance with good hygiene practice and wearing of PPE.

Operational scenarios

1. Double crewing or working in a confined space: In order to reduce the opportunities for asymptomatic, or pre-symptomatic infections between colleagues, or members of the public, a surgical Type IIR face mask should be worn in an enclosed space such as a vehicle or personnel carrier when social distancing cannot be achieved. Gloves (non-latex) should be readily available.
2. General patrol: Forces should triage calls for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases to give prior warning re: PPE requirements. This is currently happening in most forces. Officers and staff should expect that they may need to don PPE quickly in

some situations and take reasonable precautions to enable this. **PPE should be 'readily available', for example on the officer's person rather than in the back of the car. Officer safety is paramount in responding to situations but proper consideration should be given to ensure that PPE is not wasted.**

3. Entering premises: On entering premises where there is no prior information or suggestion that those present are suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19 **officers should have PPE 'readily available' capable of being donned quickly prior to, or upon, entering using the NDM to risk assess each incident.** Officers should be aware that there is the possibility that infected occupants do not know that they are infected.
4. In the circumstance where 'close contact with the public is likely and social distancing is not available and suspected risk of infection exists' **it is recommended that officer and staff wear a fluid resistant surgical mask (IIR) and gloves (non-latex). Furthermore that they conduct a risk assessment on use of a goggles and an apron.**
5. In the circumstance where 'close contact with the public is likely and social distancing not available and symptomatic' **it is recommended that officers and staff wear a fluid resistant surgical mask (IIR), gloves (non latex), disposable aprons, goggles. Furthermore that they conduct a risk assessment on the use of a fluid-repellent cover-all/over-suit. This PPE is also applicable in cases where non-compliance or spitting is envisaged.**

6. In cases of pre-planned activity such as cell extraction, warrants or known hazards associated with a violent person, **a local bespoke COVID NDM risk assessment should be undertaken to inform PPE requirement.**
7. In cases of spontaneous/dynamic COVID incidents where access to PPE is not available or there is insufficient time to don PPE, **consider a Riddor report and a COVID post incident procedure should follow with consideration of a COVID test through local occupational health.**
8. **Stop and search remains a critical crime prevention tool.**
Uniform and plain clothes officers **must wear surgical mask and gloves** when carrying out stop and search activity. Officers must be mindful of how they clearly communicate as this activity will involve close contact with a member of the public who may have been shielding or may be at greater risk of infection from COVID 19. The public might understandably be worried about spread of infection if they are stop and searched so we must ensure strict compliance with hygiene and the wearing of PPE.
9. Officers should carry a sufficient supply of Type IIR surgical masks to offer to a member of the public prior to conducting stop and search procedures and arrest and detention.

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Hygiene and PPE requirement	Inside duties			External/public facing duties		
	Cleaning of police, stations, cars and equipment	Contact with police colleagues and suppliers – Social distancing available	Social distancing not available – confined space	Contact with the public is likely – but with social distancing measures available	Close contact with the public is likely and social distancing – not available and suspected risk of infection exists	not available and symptomatic
Social distancing: first vital step in protection	2 metres	2 metres	Aspire to achieve 2 metres separation or other physical measures	2 metres	2 metres unless closer contact is essential	2 metres unless closer contact is essential
Basic hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth ■ Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and hot water and when not available use alcohol based hand sanitiser as often as possible, after incidents, and on return to station 					
Fluid resistant surgical mask (IIR)	 No	 No	 Yes	 No	 Yes	 Yes
Disposable gloves (non-latex)	 Yes	 No	Risk assess	 No	 Yes	 Yes
Disposable aprons	Risk assess	 No	 No	 No	Risk assess	 Yes
Goggles	Risk assess	 No	Risk assess	 No	Risk assess	 Yes
Fluid repellent coverall/over-suit	 No	 No	 No	 No	 No	Risk assess

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Additional notes

Masks – FFP 2 and 3 are only required in aerosol generating procedures such as invasive medical processes or by local risk assessment, which may include high intensity or prolonged physical contact with a suspect. Masks should be retained as contingency equipment for custody, forensics and DVI. They must be properly fitted to be effective.

Used PPE that is not believed to be contaminated can be disposed of through existing arrangements.

Face covering guidance has been produced. Face coverings are not PPE but they are to be worn in specific scenarios. All officers have been provided with face coverings for operational use.

- Social distancing where possible provides the most effective first line of protection – consider crewing arrangements.
- Think practically – how can I maintain social distancing? Use the NDM when likely to have close contact with a member of the public. What are your alternatives to close contact? Be proactive to protect yourself and others.
- Disinfect the inside of police vehicles thoroughly at the start and end of every shift or with a change of crew – focus on steering wheel, handbrake, door handles, radio, data terminal and seat belt. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Use only force supplied surface disinfectants.

- Cleaning of stations and 24/7 high usage/high footfall areas where officers/staff cannot easily leave their position during a shift – consider enhanced cleaning regime and regularity – use force supplied disinfectant and/or wipes.
- Inside duty teams – disinfect equipment keyboards, mouse prior to use and at regular intervals throughout a shift using disinfectant and/or wipes provided. Take the initiative – if you think it needs cleaning – protect yourself and colleagues.
- Avoid entering someone’s non-police premises unless it is absolutely essential to do so – consider phoning and/or speaking through window/door to maintain social distance.
- Remove potentially contaminated clothing and PPE using safe undressing, dressing protocols and disposal methods.
- Seal potentially contaminated disposable PPE in a double bag and dispose of it immediately in clinical waste (or, if not possible, store securely for 72 hours and dispose of it in normal waste).
- **Fluid resistant surgical masks, FFP2 and FFP3 respirator masks, disposable gloves, aprons, and fluid repellent coveralls are all single use items.**

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