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. This guidance was based on HMG advice confirmed by Public Health England (PHE) to policing on 8 April 2020.

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).

Operational scenarios

1. Double crewing: It is recommended that PPE (minimum of a fluid resistant surgical mask (IIR) and gloves (non-latex)) should be readily available for officers where it is necessary to deploy double-crewed patrols or in personnel carriers.

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.
## Personal protective equipment (PPE) operational guidance: practical scenarios

### Hygiene and PPE requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hygiene and PPE requirement</th>
<th>Inside duties</th>
<th>External/public facing duties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning of police, stations, cars and equipment</td>
<td>Contact with police colleagues and suppliers – Social distancing available</td>
<td>Contact with the public is likely – but with social distancing measures available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social distancing: first vital step in protection</td>
<td>2 metres</td>
<td>Aspire to achieve 2 metres separation or other physical measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic hygiene</td>
<td>Social distancing not available</td>
<td>2 metres unless closer contact is essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluid resistant surgical mask (IIR)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable gloves (non-latex)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable aprons</td>
<td>Risk assess</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goggles</td>
<td>Risk assess</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluid repellent coverall/over-suit</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Social distancing

- 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

### Risk assessment

- Risk assess
- Yes
- No
- Not available and symptomatic
**Personal protective equipment (PPE) operational guidance:**

**practical scenarios**

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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.

- 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.
Personal protective equipment (PPE) operational guidance:

**Masks**
- Fluid-resistant surgical masks (Type IIR)
  - **Usage:** As per operational guidance – until damp or contaminated. Typical use has been two per ten-hour operational shift.
- FFP2/3 respirator
  - **Usage:** As per operational guidance – refer to local risk assessments directing the use of these masks within your forces. Use for a maximum of one shift or one COVID confirmed incident. Must be correctly face-fitted to ensure an effective seal – refer to local guidance.

**Gloves**
- Nitrile exam gloves
  - **Usage:** Wash hands regularly before application and after removal.

**Goggles**
- Protective goggles
  - **Usage:** These require a seal to be formed against the wearer’s face. Wash hands or sanitise before applying to the face.

**Aprons**
- Disposable aprons
  - **Usage:** As per operational guidance.

**Cleaning**
- **Do not clean** – single-use item.

**Disposal**
- **If contaminated,** place in hazmat bag.
- **If not contaminated,** dispose in accordance with local disposal procedures.
- **Do not recycle.**

**Protective coveralls**
- Tyvek Cat III Type 5/6 suit or equivalent
  - **Usage:** Use for operational scenarios where an evidentially sound environment is required. Consider aprons for cleaning tasks.