

Appendix 16 – Best Practice - Aide memoire for Levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Workers when providing patient care

This table outlines the recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimise risk of cross-transmission of infection to self and others when providing patient care. Clinical judgement and decisions should be based on the suspected/known infectious agent, severity of the illness caused, transmission route of the infectious agent, and the care setting and procedures undertaken.

Level	Recommended PPE	Example infectious agent/clinical scenario
Level 1 SICPs	Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposable apron Disposable gloves Consider (if risk of spraying or splashing): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye & face protection (fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask & full face visor or goggles) 	No suspected or known infectious agent Anticipated exposure to blood and/or other body fluids
Level 2 CONTACT	DIRECT/INDIRECT CONTACT PRECAUTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed Disposable gloves Consider (if risk of spraying or splashing): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye & face protection (fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and goggles or fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and full face visor) 	Suspected or confirmed infectious agent spread by DIRECT/INDIRECT CONTACT Examples: <i>C. difficile</i> , Hepatitis C, MRSA, Norovirus, <i>Salmonella</i> Anticipated exposure to blood and/or other body fluids
Level 2 DROPLET	DROPLET (RESPIRATORY) PRECAUTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed Disposable gloves Fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and goggles or fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and full face visor 	Suspected or confirmed infectious agent spread by the DROPLET route Examples: Whooping cough, Influenza
Level 2 AIRBORNE	AIRBORNE (RESPIRATORY) PRECAUTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed Disposable gloves Filtering face piece 3 (FFP3) respirator and eye protection or a powered hood respirator 	Suspected or confirmed infectious agent spread by the AIRBORNE route Examples: Chickenpox, Pulmonary TB, Measles
FOR ALL AEROSOL-GENERATING PROCEDURES: FFP3 respirator (and eye protection) or a powered hood respirator		
Level 3 ENHANCED	ENHANCED PRECAUTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforced fluid-resistant long-sleeved surgical gown Disposable fluid-resistant hood (if wearing a gown without an attached hood) Full length disposable plastic apron FFP3 respirator or powered hood respirator Disposable full face visor 2 sets of long or extended cuff non-sterile, non-latex disposable gloves Surgical wellington boots or closed shoes Disposable boot covers 	For suspected or confirmed Infectious Diseases of High Consequence (IDHC) Spread by DIRECT/INDIRECT CONTACT Examples: Ebola virus, Lassa virus Spread by the AIRBORNE route Examples: SARS, MERS-CoV, Avian Influenza See the HPS PPE for Infectious Diseases of High Consequence literature review for further details including donning and doffing instructions

Note: HPS are aware of the [High Consequence Infectious Diseases \(HCID\) consensus PPE model](#) drafted by Public Health England's HCID Programme (article in press) and will review this aide memoire following an evidence appraisal.

Adapted from original work produced by Public Health England and NHS Sheffield.