

PHRU COVID-19 Evidence Summary for the NL Healthcare System

prepared by the

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<https://www.med.mun.ca/phru/home.aspx>

What type of PPE should be worn in primary care?

Sources with information on this topic:

BMJ, Ontario, PHAC, WHO, CDC, Australia
(JAMA, NL, CADTH all had links to the previously mentioned sources)

Consistency:

- Highly consistent

Credibility:

- Few sources cite evidence
- A 2007 meta-analysis of mostly poor to moderate quality evidence published in BMJ supports these recommendations.

Recommendations

- PPE should be worn based on a clinical risk assessment (e.g. procedure about to be performed, patient symptoms, patient travel history).
- If patient is suspected to have COVID or if the patient's status is unknown, care providers should wear full contact and droplet PPE (gloves, goggles, gown and mask).
- If the patient's status is known and there is no suspicion the patient could have COVID, usual precautions should be used.
- No PPE is necessary when not around patients (e.g. in the hall)
- N95 masks need only be used for aerosol generating procedures (i.e. not in most primary care practices)

Please provide feedback on the format of these summaries and send us any questions you would like answered. Contact phru@mun.ca