

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** April 17, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID#: 58-2020

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**To:** CLDS program staff

**Subject: PPE use in residential care settings**

**Program(s): All**

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**Type:**  Policy  For Internal Reference Only  
 Procedure  Information Only

**Effective Date** Immediately

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The following explains the expected use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in a residential care setting.

If you work in a staffed residential care setting:

- Eye shields and masks are worn continuously to keep residents healthy.
- Gowns are only worn if a resident in a home is presumed to have COVID-19, is COVID-19 positive or has cold/flu symptoms.
- Gloves are worn only if a resident is COVID-19 presumed or positive or has cold/flu symptoms or when providing intimate personal care (contact with bodily fluid).

If you provide unit-based services (in-home visits):

- Ask screening questions to identify risk before entering the home.
- If you can confirm through screening questions that no one in the home is ill and that social distancing (2 meters or 6 feet) can be maintained – you do not need to wear PPE.
- If you cannot confirm the screening questions, if someone is ill or if social distancing cannot be maintained – you should wear PPE as outlined above.

Eye shield lenses are to be discarded at the end of each shift and the frames are to be cleaned with soap and water and can be reused. Eye shields should be worn over prescription glasses.

**Remember to wash your hands regularly with soap and water.** This is the best protection against the virus.