



PPE Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel Caring for COVID-19 Positive Patients

PPE Item	Requirement
Respirator	Fit-tested N95 or higher (e.g., PAPR, elastomeric respirator) for direct patient care.
Eye Protection	Goggles or a face shield during close contact or when droplet exposure is possible.
Gown	Long-sleeve isolation or disposable gown when contact with patient or contaminated surfaces is possible.
Gloves	Non-sterile exam gloves for all patient care activities.
Patient Source Control	Encourage patient (if able) to wear a medical mask during visits.

Additional Considerations:

Scenario	Guidance
Aerosol-Generating Procedures	Use full enhanced PPE (respirator, eye protection, gown, gloves). Maximize ventilation in the home.
Donning & Doffing	Follow proper sequence. Perform hand hygiene to prevent self-contamination.
Agency Risk Assessments	Maintain a policy. Be prepared to scale PPE practices during periods of increased respiratory virus activity.

Source	Date	References
Massachusetts DPH guidance for vaccine recommendations and infection or exposure to respiratory infections	September 1, 2025	Guidance for Health Care Personnel with a Respiratory Viral Pathogen Infection or Exposure Mass.gov DPH recommended guidance for vaccines Mass.gov
Massachusetts DPH PPE Guidance	May 5, 2023	Remains the most current state-level PPE guidance. PPE Guidance Infection Control Procedures 5-5-2023.pdf
CDC Infection Control Guidance	June 2024	Latest federal guidance for healthcare settings, including home health. Infection Control Guidance: SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 CDC

Agencies should continue to base PPE policies, staff training, and infection control procedures on these references.